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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 27-29, 2015

High 3°C / Low 2°C Wet

Hurry hard to downtown

CHAMPIONSHIP

**Bar owners
expecting spike
in crowds for
week of curling**

Haley
Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Thousands are expected to slide into bars across downtown Halifax this week for the world men's curling championship, a prospect one owner says hits all the right buttons.

The nine-day event kicks off at the Scotiabank Centre Saturday, and the owner of the nearby HFX Sports Bar & Grill said the games should bring a welcome surge in patrons after a long, icy winter.

"We're hoping it's the light at the end of the tunnel, and spring is now here," Marcel

Khoury said Thursday.

Khoury said a series of storms through February and March, combined with street parking bans, Macdonald Bridge closures, and few big-ticket events resulted in a "perfect storm" of limited foot traffic and slower business.

But he said curling should bring out a diverse crowd of young people who enjoy the game, as well as an older crowd from the suburbs and across the province.

In a city that has enjoyed previous boosts from the Brier, the co-owner of the Midtown Tavern, Bob Grant, said an even bigger curling event will be "great for the city."

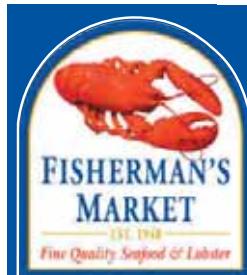
"We're expecting a real busy time," Grant said, adding that while curling is a game of etiquette, the fans definitely like to party.

"They're certainly a boisterous, happy crowd," he said.



Neptune launches new season

Cast members of Neptune Theatre's upcoming production of *The Addams Family* — which opens April 7 — perform during a launch of the theatre's upcoming season at Fountain Hall on Thursday. Story, page 4. JEFF HARPER/METRO



WEEKEND SPECIALS FRI-SUN

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City to assess more flexible parking permit system

COUNCIL

HRM staff propose less rigid rules



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

Changes could be coming to Halifax's permit parking system that may appease the woes of some drivers, according to a recent staff report.

On Thursday, the Transportation Standing Committee voted in favour of carrying forward a number of proposed amendments to regional council on potentially changing the current permit-parking bylaws.

A staff report details how the city's permit types and regulations lack flexibility, particularly for residents without driveways who depend on street parking.

Under the current system, staff explain that residential permit holders are only allowed to park on streets where



It will likely be good news for drivers if the city follows through on changing permit-parking bylaws. METRO FILE

they live, making those who reside on streets that ban parking or have bike lanes ineligible.

However, that could change if council follows staff's rec-

ommendation to switch from a street block to zone-based system, whereby permit holders could park in designated areas around their home.

"That provides a lot of flexibility," HRM's manager of traffic management Taso Koutroulakis told Thursday's committee.

Another potential change includes the introduction of short-term visitor permit parking that could be transferred between vehicles for when

residents — even those with driveways — host out-of-town visitors or have caregivers or workers visit their home.

Under current city rules, visitor parking passes are vehicle specific.

"If you didn't have a private driveway that would entitle you to get a visitor parking exemption, so that your visitors, regardless of who they are, could park on the street in your zone," Koutroulakis explained.

He added that the cost of a temporary visitor-parking permit would be the same as an annual permit of \$30.

Coun. Linda Mosher voiced concerns over the flexibility of the proposed visitor or residential permit regulations, saying they could be easily abused and jam up residential streets already short on parking space.

"I'll be speaking against this when it comes to council," Mosher said Thursday.

IN BRIEF

Council to debate car-sharing businesses

The question of whether car-sharing businesses should have access to on-street parking is headed to Halifax city council next month.

On Thursday, the Transportation Standing Committee voted 3 to 2 in favour of having regional council request a staff report on whether car-sharing businesses, such as CarShare-HFX, should have access to right-of-way parking, similar to taxi stands, on municipal streets.

The proposal was initially recommended against in a recent staff report, but was amended by Coun. Wayne Mason for consideration as a pilot project.

According to the report, CarShareHFX's nearly 40 vehicles are currently stored in "home base" private lots throughout the city.

Coun. Gloria McCluskey questioned why the city should consider granting on-street parking access to a private commercial business, which is already accommodated by private lots.

"If it was non-profit car-sharing I could support it," added Coun. Linda Mosher.

Mason argued that the city already allows for private taxi stands, explaining the principle behind car-sharing also aligns with HRM's regional plan.

"It's not about supporting a particular business," he said. STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

AT A GLANCE

City staff recommend the creation of a new temporary resident parking permit to be offered to drivers — for free — when street or driveway access is interrupted by a municipal project.

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Neptune 2015-16: Literature, musicals and ogres, oh my!

PERFORMING ARTS

Theatre lineup includes Great Expectations and Shrek

Leena
Ali

For Metro | Halifax

Neptune Theatre wants to make you a believer.

The theatre company has unveiled the playbill for its 2015-16 season, which includes award-winning Canadian shows, an adaptation of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations and Shrek: The Musical.

"We'll make you a believer in live theatre," said artistic director George Pothitos during an interview Thursday.

A preview of the 53rd season in Neptune's Fountain Hall opened with a performance from The Addams Family, the final musical of Neptune's 2014-15 season, which opens April 7.

Pothitos revealed that the upcoming lineup kicks off in



Neptune Theatre's Dayna Tietzen plays Morticia Addams and Rob Torr plays Gomez Addams during a lunchtime season launch event on Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

September with an adaptation of Great Expectations. "One of the best-loved Dickens tales of all time,

Great Expectations is a riveting story of class struggle, ambition, redemption and love," Pothitos told the crowd.

Next in the lineup is Boom, a show that Pothitos said will "explode on stage in a mind-blowing experience for audiences of all generations."

The show is written, performed and directed by Rick Miller and highlights the defining years of the baby-boomer generation. The multimedia show follows the culture, politics and music that influenced the era. It will take place from Oct. 20 to Nov. 8, 2015.

During the launch, audiences got a sneak-peek per-

formance of this year's holiday musical, A Year with Frog and Toad, running Nov. 24 to Jan. 3, 2015. The Tony-nominated musical originally appeared on Broadway

and is based on a book by Arnold Lobel.

"We'll follow the adventures of two unlikely friends — the cheerful and popular frog and the rather grumpy toad — as they go through

four fun-filled seasons," said Pothitos, adding that the show tells the story of an enduring friendship.

Other shows in the lineup include Stag and Doe by Mark Crawford; 2 Pianos 4 Hands, written by Ted Dykstra and Richard Greenblatt; Lungs, written by Duncan MacMillan; and Marion Bridge by award-winning Canadian playwright Daniel MacIvor.

The season will end with a show for the whole family. The Tony Award-winning show Shrek: The Musical, based on the Dreamworks film, was originally produced on Broadway.

"(The show) will bring everyone's favourite ogre to life on stage," said Pothitos.

Neptune also revealed a new lineup of bonus features, including Hank Williams Live, 1952 with performer Joe Matheson; Ladies of Song starring Karen Myatt; Remembering Patsy Cline and Friends; and an encore performance of Rant and Raise with Rick Mercer, a one-night show happening at the Spatz Theatre on May 13.

Pothitos says the upcoming season has something for all audiences.

There's a lot of music in the season.... There's the journeys; each play has a very distinct journey for the individual.

Neptune artistic director George Pothitos

KHYBER

Neptune GM: Arts incubator worth backing

Neptune Theatre's general manager says that the organization is committed to helping groups like the Khyber Arts Society develop an arts incubator in Halifax's downtown.

"Neptune is an arts leader in the community. We feel it's our responsibility when we can to step up to the plate," said Amy Melmock on Thursday.

A recent report from the city says \$4 million is needed to save the Khyber building, which closed last January because of asbestos.

A second staff report on a promised arts incubator for the Khyber states the project is "not location specific."

Downtown regional Coun. Wayne Mason said this week that he will propose a joint management agreement between the city, community arts groups, the Khyber Arts Society and Neptune Theatre.

Melmock said Neptune has already been working with some of those groups to develop a business plan.

"Hopefully in collaboration with the city ... we may be able to come up with a way of harnessing all our energies to work on that facility," said Melmock.

She said that arts incubators yield many benefits, including innovation and the creation of businesses in the digital sector, among others.

"We know that having arts incubators and arts facilities in our community attracts people to the downtown core," she said.

LEENA ALI/FOR METRO



Uncle Fester is played by Jacob MacInnis. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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CITY HALL

Public to have a say on spending

Two Halifax councillors are once again asking residents how they want to spend \$94,000 to better their communities.

Councillors Wayne Mason of the downtown area and Jennifer Watts of the north end, are inviting residents to take part in a participatory budgeting process, where they can vote on how to spend each district's 2015-16 capital budget of \$94,000.

\$94K

Each district has a capital budget of \$94,000. You can let councillors know how you think the money should be spent by attending an information session.

Mason first initiated the project in 2013, in order to divide the money between selected community projects. Watts adopted the process last year.

Residents of the downtown and south-end areas (District 7) can attend an information session at the Halifax Central Library on April 13 at 7 p.m. The email or mail deadline for project proposals is May 5, and voting will take place on May 19 at the Halifax Central Library from 6 to 9 p.m.

The information session for those in the north-end (District 8) is scheduled for April 1 at 7 p.m., at the Italian Cultural Centre. Email or mail proposal deadline is May 1, while voting day is back at the Italian Cultural Centre on June 4 from 6 to 9 p.m.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

City staff: No rush to buy Purcell's Cove Backlands

DEVELOPMENT

Conservation group backs greenbelting discussions



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

City staff are recommending that discussion around Halifax's potential purchase of the Purcell's Cove Backlands should happen in the context

of developing HRM's greenbelting policy.

Last May, council voted down a motion to open the roughly 632 acres of protected wilderness, known as the Purcell's Cove or Williams Lake Backlands, to development.

The lands are designated as urban reserve, despite the fact that several developers, including Clayton Developments and Battery Hill Developments, own parts of the area.

Last spring, Coun. Steven Adams tabled a motion to redesignate the area on behalf

of the developers, but after that was defeated he gained the support of council with a second motion to consider the public acquisition of the lands.

During Thursday's Community Planning and Economic Development meeting, staff tabled a report saying there is no urgency to make a decision on purchasing the lands, as their urban reserve status on the lands does not expire until 2031.

Rather, they recommended the issue be deferred and further explored in the first stage

WHAT IS IT?

Purcell's Cove and Williams Lake Backlands are composed of around 1,350 hectares of wilderness, including nine lakes.

of developing the Greenbelting & Public Open Space plan, expected to be ready by fall.

Catherine McKinnon, spokeswoman for the Backlands Coalition — composed of 10 organizations committed to protecting the area —

said the group fully supports staff's recommendation.

"There's not urgency to sell this land right away. We want to figure out where all this is going in the context of the greenbelting," she said Thursday.

"We are confident and hopeful that the Backlands will figure in that Greenbelting process."

At Adams' request, Thursday's committee voted that the motion be deferred — without a recommendation — to be debated at regional council.



WEATHER A REFLECTION OF HIS SURROUNDINGS A pedestrian rounds a corner of a snow-covered footpath near reflections of snow in the windows of the Halifax Central Library, Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO



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Parks staff protest cuts

SELF-SERVICE

Province to close visitor centres, install pay stations

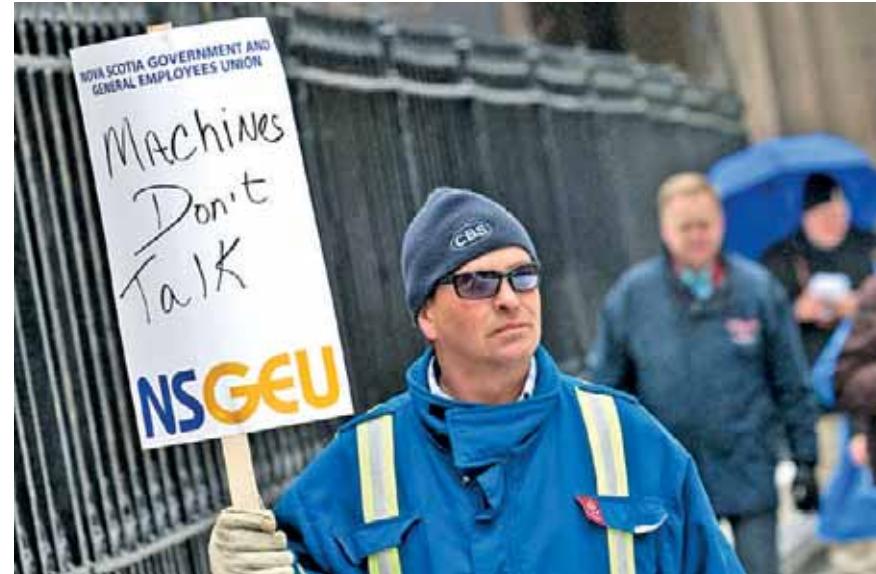
Madison Blanchard
Metro | Halifax

Workers from provincial parks across Nova Scotia gathered outside Province House Thursday to protest a move to make seven parks "self-service," meaning the loss of dozens of jobs.

"It's a disgrace," said Nova Scotia Government Employment Union president Joan Jessome. "It's an absolute disgrace that a sitting government is putting the vulnerable workers, the seasonal workers out on unemployment."

In February, the Liberal government announced plans to close two visitor centres in Digby and Pictou, and install pay stations at seven parks.

The move is expected to save



NSGEU members protest outside the Nova Scotia legislature Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

\$1 million, but 58 seasonal employees will lose their jobs.

But Jessome says the job losses aren't the reason many of the workers are upset.

"It's not always, 'I'm not going to be employed any more';

it's about the visitor's centre not opening," said Jessome. "They have a real general attachment to the work that they do."

The workers' main message is that the loss of personalized service will result in fewer visits to the parks over time.

Former park worker Sharlene MacLean said many campers use the parks at night and if there is no one manning the front desk, tourists won't know where to go.

"Nobody's going to say there's a restaurant up the road, or where the Co-Op is or Home Hardware or any of that stuff," she said.

Melissa Lake, one of the seven workers who were laid off at the Whycocomagh Provincial Park, said her job is about more than sitting in a booth charging admission fees.

"I've done everything from setting up tents in the middle of the night to searching for campers' lost possessions," the single mother of two said.

Lake said if the government is serious about beefing up tourism, it should be doing everything in its power to keep tourists coming back — and that means personal service.

"Not just talking-to-the-wall kind of service," she said.



Nobody's going to say there's a restaurant up the road.

Former park worker Sharlene MacLean

IN BRIEF

Police enhance reporting of crimes online

Halifax Regional Police say they have improved the online crime reporting system by replacing it with one that streamlines the process.

According to a release, the new forms are easier to fill out and a filtering screen will help determine if you should be using online reporting.

The new system directly interfaces with police records management, eliminating the need for manual input of data received online. METRO STAFF

College hiking tuition by \$90 for most programs

Nova Scotia Community College has announced tuition rates for 2015-16 will increase by three per cent for most programs. For most students, the three per cent increase adds up to an extra \$90 in annual tuition costs.

NSCC president Don Bureaux says in a release the hike will generate revenue to support "high-quality programming."

METRO STAFF

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SERVICES

Government hiking most user fees by 3%

5.8%

The amount of the last fee hike in April 2013.

Most user fees in Nova Scotia are going up by at least three per cent, a pre-budget move the government says will mean \$7.7 million for provincial coffers in 2015-16.

Diana Whalen said Thursday that about 1,400 user fees for a wide range of services, licences and permits will be hiked.

Fees for government service organizations, such as school boards and health authorities, will not be affected. Travel guide advertising, foreign schools and international student fees, and requests for information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act are also exempt.

Whalen said the increase was adjusted to the cost of

living for the past two years and the move is a sign of the fiscal challenges faced by the province.

"I've been very clear, we're under a great deal of pressure to pay for the services and the many programs that are essential to Nova Scotians," said Whalen.

She said most of the fees probably don't come close to delivering the costs of the services offered by the government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECREATION

Ski Wentworth to close Easter Sunday

“

Boom, it all hit in early February. Since then it has been full out with some record crowds

Leslie Wilson, general manager of Ski Wentworth

Next weekend will spell the end of another season at Ski Wentworth.

General manager Leslie Wilson confirmed the ski hill will close over the Easter weekend, with the popular Aquaneige on April 4, and the annual Easter Egg hunt on April 5.

Wilson said it was a very "up and down" type of year with a late start and a mild January.

Mother Nature struck back with plenty of fury from late January until last week, when another major winter storm interrupted March break skiing.

"Boom, it all hit in early February," Wilson said. "Since then it has been full out with some record crowds."

But we've also been shut down because of wind and (poor) roads."

While snow was plentiful, high winds and heavy snow prevented people from getting to Wentworth and forced the closure of operations because of zero visibility on the mountain. AMHERST DAILY NEWS



The Speaker of the House, the Honourable Kevin Murphy, looks up to the gallery during the first day of the spring session of the Nova Scotia Legislature on Thursday. The Liberal government kicked off the session with amendments that will reduce the number of bargaining units for health care workers from 50 to four. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Province formalizes new bargaining units

LABOUR

Amendments to allow four councils to negotiate

The approach taken by the Nova Scotia government to settle which unions will bargain on behalf of health workers drew scorn Thursday from the opposition parties, who accused the Liberals of retreating when its tough tactics proved futile.

Under the changes introduced to the Health Author-

ties Act as the legislature's spring session opened, four councils would negotiate collective agreements on behalf of health workers when the number of health authorities is cut from 10 to two next week.

Health Minister Leo Glavine said the councils would bargain on behalf of nursing, health care, support and administrative workers.

Glavine said the changes would streamline bargaining by cutting the number of units from 50 to four and help eliminate protracted rounds of bargaining with unions.

"It shouldn't take years to

negotiate and reach settlements," said Glavine. "It didn't make sense. We now have a better approach."

The legislative changes follow an agreement struck with the province's public-sector unions earlier this month after the government dismissed arbitrator James Dorsey, who was hired to settle issues surrounding union representation under a bill passed last fall.

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie said there has been a lot of turmoil and expense in getting the process back to where it was six months ago.

"We have an arrangement

NEW SYSTEM

Under the new system, The Nova Scotia Nurses' Union will be the lead negotiator for nurses and licensed practical nurses; the NSGEU will bargain for health care workers; Unifor will handle talks for support workers; and CUPE will represent administrative professionals.

now that was proposed by the unions themselves and rejected by the premier last fall," said Baillie. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WEEKEND, March 27-29, 2015

Halifax | metro NEWS

Warehouse loses 2 roofs in storm

WEATHER

Heavy, wet snow too much for Berwick structure

It's unlikely Harley Moody will be humming along to "Let it Snow" any time soon.

The last bout of bad winter weather that blew through the Annapolis Valley left Moody with not one, but two collapsed roofs to contend with.

The alarm sounded on the H & G Properties Limited complex in the Berwick Industrial Park early in the morning March 22.

Moody went to investigate, and found damage unlike anything he'd ever seen.

"It's hundreds of thousands of dollars, I know that," said Moody.

The 22-unit structure spans about 180,000 square feet. The majority of the building is dedicated to warehousing space, but it houses some offices, as well.

Luckily, no one was on site when the roofs of two separate parts of the building caved in under the weight of the wet snow that fell overnight.

One warehouse unit with a flat, metal roof lost a wall, as well. The other collapse impacted a portion of the building that looks unscathed from the outside. The interior, however, paints a different picture. What once was a slightly peaked roof is now a pile of rubble, strewn over merchandise purchased for Moody's Berwick-based Bargain Harley's variety store.

"It's quite discouraging," said Moody.



Harley Moody stands inside one of his warehouses that collapsed under the weight of snow. KINGS COUNTY NEWS

It's hundreds of thousands of dollars, I know that
Berwick building owner
Harley Moody

though — \$50,000 deduction," he said, noting that he has more than \$17 million in insurance for the complex.

The collapsed roofs caused electrical, sewer and water complications that Moody had to sort out as soon as possible for tenants requiring the services.

"There's always lots to do, especially in a building like this," said Moody. "I do a lot of warehousing so that's why there's always lots to do at this time of year."

KINGS COUNTY NEWS

IN BRIEF

Cinderella dancing

The classic story of a ball, a prince and a fairy godmother is coming to Halifax this April.

Canada's Ballet Jörigen is bringing Cinderella to the Rebecca Cohn Theatre accompanied by Symphony Nova Scotia on April 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. The ballet will feature more than 16 dancers, detailed costumes, sets, and the symphony playing Prokofiev's score. Tickets are now available, and prices range from \$35 to \$69. Call 494-3820 or symphonynovascotia.ca

METRO

KENTVILLE

Police help deer out of snowy situation



It couldn't get itself out of the snow

Sgt. Ron Delorey

After helping dozens of people when their vehicles were stuck in the snow, Kentville Police got a little variety this week.

Officers responded to a courtesy call Wednesday to assist a deer that was stuck in the snow.

The police found the deer near a residence in Bonavista Estates.

Sgt. Ron Delorey said the deer was distraught and appeared exhausted when they arrived.

"It couldn't get itself out of the snow," Delorey said.

"The deer had got too close to a residence and got stuck between four feet of snow and the residence."

The owner of the home had to shovel a step-like path for the deer to get free.

KINGS COUNTY NEWS

CRIME

Chemicals suspect to face judge-only trial

A man who was arrested after police found chemicals in a shed and cottage in Halifax will stand trial in June.

Christopher Phillips pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges of uttering threats and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Phillips, 42, has elected to be tried by judge alone when the five-day trial begins June 1 in the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

The case is also due in court

on May 7 to determine whether the trial dates are suitable.

Defence lawyer Mike Taylor said outside court Thursday that his client wants to have his day in court as soon as possible.

"Mr. Phillips is in custody and he's likely to remain that way until the trial," said Taylor. "It just made sense to get a trial as quickly as possible so he wouldn't waste any time sitting on remand."

It just made sense to get a trial as quickly as possible.
Defence lawyer Mike Taylor

Taylor said a pre-trial conference set for April 24 will deal with issues not considered contentious, such as jurisdictions, admission of documents or the

identification of substances that are at the heart of the case.

"That can shorten things considerably," he said, suggesting that the trial may be quicker than expected if enough issues are dealt with beforehand.

The discovery of chemicals prompted evacuations in Halifax and the Ottawa hotel where Phillips was arrested in January.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nichelle Benn, right, and her mother Brenda Hardiman wait at provincial court in Dartmouth last January.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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No charges for woman living with disability

COURTS

Alleged assault a health issue, not a criminal one, says mom

with the outcome.

"We just hope that other families that are experiencing the same thing will take a look at this and continue their fight, and hopefully they'll have the same result that we have," Hardiman said outside court.

Hardiman said she didn't believe the case should have been before the courts because her daughter has a brain disorder, adding that it was a health issue, not a criminal one.

Outside court, defence lawyer Jane O'Neill said the Crown's decision was the result of months of discussion on both sides of the case.

"I've been in discussions with Crown counsel Alex Keaveny, who very thoroughly looked at the situation, followed up on Nichelle's progress and rightfully made the decision that he would exercise his discretion not to proceed with the charges," O'Neill said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SPRINGHILL

Mounties to assume policing of town

The RCMP will soon take over policing duties in Springhill.

According to a release, the details for the transition of policing services between the former town police and RCMP are almost finished, and the Mounties

will soon be on duty at 43 Main St. in the former municipal office.

Part of the RCMP's Cumberland District, the Springhill detachment will have eight police officers and one administrative employee. Two of the officers are former Springhill Police employees. METRO

Snow hides dirty secrets

WEATHER

With city staff on plow duty, trash has been left where it fell

Leena Ali
For Metro | Halifax

If you're hoping the snow will melt away soon, keep in mind: what it reveals may not be pretty.

A reader recently sent Metro a photo of an overflowing trash receptacle at a bus stop on the corner of Summer Street and Spring Garden Road, calling it "shameful."

It came just a few weeks after a similar photo of another trash can was posted on Twitter.

A city spokeswoman said it's an ongoing problem because staff responsible for cleaning trash cans on streets and at parks have been called on to help with snow removal.

"Our primary concern at the

moment is making sure that the streets and sidewalks are safe and accessible for people," said Jennifer Stairs. "We'll get around to cleaning things up as things continue to melt."

She expects staff will return to trash duty soon, noting that there's probably even more litter lurking under the mountains of snow and ice left behind by a nightmarishly severe winter.

"Every year, of course, when the snow melts, there's litter and other things ... that were buried in the snow that is then deposited on the sidewalks," she said. "Right now ... it's still half buried or it's frozen into the snow. So we can't really do anything about that until it melts."

Coun. Wayne Mason, in whose district the "shameful" trash receptacle resides, said he doesn't expect the city will have to spend extra dollars on the cleanup.

"This year might be a bit more work, but once the workers don't have to drive snow plows anymore, we should have enough folks to get it done," he said via email.



CURLING DON'T SKIP THIS From left: Team Canada lead Nolan Thiessen, second Carter Rycroft, skip Pat Simmons and third Thomas Sallows participate at Grand Parade on Thursday, in an event to promote the World Men's Curling Championship.

ERNESTO CARRANZA/FOR METRO



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MPs told ISIL mission will need more time: Sources

IRAQ AND SYRIA

Military official said only 650 Kurds have been trained

The training of Kurdish peshmerga fighters has been a slow undertaking that could mean Canada's mission in Iraq and Syria will take more than a year, The Canadian Press has learned.

That was the message officials from the Canadian Forces and Foreign Affairs delivered behind closed doors Wednesday to the main critics of the New Democrats and the Liberals.

The briefing included an officer who currently oversees the strategic joint staff, the military's nerve centre. Neither Defence Minister Jason Kenney nor Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson were present.

Maj.-Gen. Mike Hood, who

will soon become the commander of the air force, told the briefing that only 650 peshmerga fighters have been trained since a contingent of 69 elite Canadian commandos deployed to northern Iraq last September, according to multiple sources with knowledge of what was said in the room.

The MPs were told that "this was not a one-year undertaking by any stretch of the imagination, that it will take multiple years," said one source, who insisted on anonymity.

Hood tried to reassure the politicians that CF-18 jet fighters would be able to conduct precision strikes on moving and static targets inside Syria — one objective of a controversial motion by the Harper government.

Sources said Hood told those gathered that the Canadians would get accurate strike information from intelligence and surveillance platforms but did not say how the intelligence would be gathered.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Defence Minister Jason Kenney speaks with the media Wednesday in the foyer of the House of Commons. The training of Kurdish fighters has been slow, which could mean Canada's mission in Iraq may take more than a year, according to sources. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANTI-TERROR BILL

Ex-spymaster says activists need not fret

Many demonstrators are flattering themselves when they publicly fret about coming under the scrutiny of security services, says a former spymaster.

Ray Boisvert said Thursday the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) had the resources to monitor only those threats "in the red, high-risk, high-probability zone" when he served as the agency's assistant director of intelligence earlier this decade.

"That meant that we had no time to even consider looking at any sort of lesser evils that were emerging out there," Boisvert told the House of Commons public-

safety committee, which is studying a sweeping new security bill.

Boisvert, now a security consultant, said he takes "great offence" to commonly voiced concerns that the legislation would effectively place legitimate protest under the CSIS lens, adding that groups and individuals "should not flatter yourself to that degree."

Boisvert and David Harris, another retired CSIS officer, backed a legislative proposal to allow the spy agency to actively derail terror plots — not just gather information about them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEFENCE

Budget watchdog says military costs unsustainable

The Harper government has built a military that it cannot afford and will be forced to make tough choices in the future, the country's budget watchdog said Thursday.

The new assessment by the parliamentary budget office came as debate kicked off in the House of Com-

mons about an expanded and extended war against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Jean-Denis Frechette, the parliamentary budget officer, says the federal government will need to either pour more money into its defence budget, scale back its ambitions or do a mixture of both.

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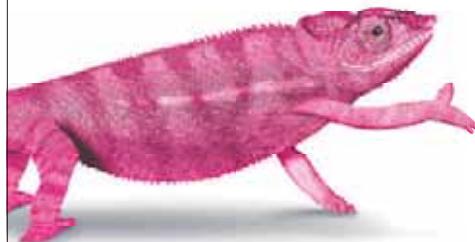
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Most free MP trips to Taiwan, Israel

POLITICS

Commissioner releases MP travel arranged by outside orgs

Sixty MPs declared 86 free trips — courtesy of advocacy organizations, business groups and foreign embassies — worth a

total of \$442,524 last year, according to a summary of sponsored travel reports released Thursday by Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson.

The most popular destinations for travel junkets in 2014 were Taiwan, which received 17 visits, and Israel, which was frequented 12 times.

MPs are required to disclose travel worth more than \$500

— and paid for by someone other than the federal government, political parties, inter-parliamentary associations or the MPs themselves — to the commissioner within 60 days.

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair travelled to Las Vegas with his executive assistant George Smith to speak at the convention for the United Steelworkers International, from Aug. 11 to 12, 2014. The union covered

\$2,915 in travel costs.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler travelled to Israel to address a counterterrorism conference in Herzliya from Sept. 4 to 12, 2014. The university IDC Herzliya covered \$5,219 in travel costs.

Conservative MP Russ Hiebert travelled to Taipei, Taiwan with his wife, Andrea Heibert, for "economic and cultural education," from April 12 to 26,

2014. The Chinese International Economic Co-operative Association covered \$10,867, including \$125 worth of gifts.

Liberal MP Stéphane Dion travelled to Spain, visiting Barcelona, Madrid and Tarragona, to participate on multiple panels at a conference from Mar. 8 to 13, 2014. La Fundación Canada and Federalistes d'Esquerres covered \$2,947 in travel costs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES



NDP leader Thomas Mulcair was among 60 MPs who took trips on others' dimes.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



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GUN REGISTRY

Supreme Court to rule on gun data

The Harper government may be headed for another political collision with the Supreme Court of Canada, which is set to rule Friday on the fate of Quebec's gun registry data.

The Conservatives abolished the registry for long guns in February 2011, fulfilling a five-year-old campaign promise after forming a majority government.

They also ordered that all data collected by the provinces be destroyed — a decision the Quebec government went to court to overturn.

A Quebec judge originally granted the province's request to preserve the data, calling it a constitutional infringement to destroy it.

But that decision was overturned by the Quebec Court of Appeal, which said there was no constitutional violation in the federal order to destroy the data.

The issue is politically charged because the Conservatives see mainly rural long-gun owners as a core constituency.

Jeremy Laurin, a spokesman for Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney, defended the government's decision to seek to have the gun registry data destroyed.

"It would be dangerous for our law enforcement to rely on outdated and obsolete in-

formation to conduct their operations," Laurin said in a statement.

He reiterated the government's oft-repeated position that the registry was wasteful and that the government "will always stand up for law-abiding hunters, farmers and sport shooters."

So, the Supreme Court will once again find itself ruling on a key area of the government's agenda.

The court has ruled against Conservative policy in a number of key areas, including rejecting the appointment of Quebec judge Marc Nadon to its ranks, rejecting Parliament's right to reform the Senate on its own and upholding the right of Vancouver's controversial Insite safe-injection facility to stay open when the government wanted to close it.

Friday's ruling deals with a narrow legal issue: the Quebec government isn't taking issue with Ottawa's jurisdiction to get rid of the long gun registry, only the provision to destroy the data.

Quebec is arguing that the registry was a joint effort between the provinces and the federal government, giving it the right to keep the data.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Eight years' jail for illegal butt injections

A woman who injected industrial silicone oil into customers' buttocks had no regard for their safety and preyed on her victims for financial gain, a Toronto judge found Thursday as she sentenced Marilyn Reid to eight years in prison.

The sentence means that, with credit for time already spent in custody, the 50-year-old Newmarket, Ont., woman has five years and three months left to serve.

"Ms. Reid has wounded, maimed, disfigured and endangered the lives of the victims," said Superior Court Justice Jane Kelly. "The offences appear to have been motivated by greed."

Reid cradled her head in her hands and looked down at the floor of the prisoner's box as her sentence was delivered.

She had pleaded guilty to eight counts of aggravated assault in January. A ninth victim came forward after her legal case was underway. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Investigators carry boxes from the apartment of Germanwings airliner jet co-pilot Andreas Lubitz, in Dusseldorf, Germany, Thursday. MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK CITY

Fire, building collapse injures 2 critically

A building on fire near New York University collapsed on Thursday, and at least two people were critically injured, firefighters said.

Orange flames and black smoke billowed from the facade and roof of the five-story building in Manhattan, near several NYU buildings and the Washington Square Park area.

Flames were spreading to other buildings.

Investigators were looking into whether there had been a gas leak. There were some reports of an explosion before the fire.

The area was being evacuated, and other people were being evaluated at the scene.

Freelance photographer Michael Seto, who lives about 1 1/2 blocks away, said he was having lunch around 3:20 p.m.

"I could feel the boom in my apartment, and it short of shook," he said.

He grabbed his camera, ran outside and found a crowd gathering, looking at a brick ten-

ment-style building with a restaurant on the first floor.

"By the second story, the front part of the building, the facade, the first and second stories, it looked like, had collapsed into the street," he said.

Rubble was on the sidewalk, and glass and debris had been flung across an avenue.

trollers and began plunging from its cruising altitude of 38,000 feet, before slamming into the mountainside eight minutes later.

The prosecutor laid out in horrifying detail the final sounds heard in the cockpit extracted from the mangled voice recorder.

Lubitz, courteous in the first part of the trip, became "curt" when the captain began the mid-flight briefing on the planned landing, Robin said.

The pilot, who has not been identified, left the cockpit for an apparent bathroom break, and Lubitz took control of the jet.

He suddenly started a manual descent, and the pilot started knocking on the door.

There was no response. "It was absolute silence in the cockpit," the prosecutor said — except for the steady breathing he said indicated Lubitz was not panicked, and acted in a calm, deliberate manner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A building burns after an explosion on Second Avenue on Thursday in New York City. ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

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Women in traditional dress attend a service on Thursday for the reinterment of the mortal remains of King Richard III at Leicester Cathedral in Leicester, U.K. RUI VIEIRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Richard III gets burial with dignity

LEICESTER, U.K.

Infamous king's skeleton found 500 years after his death

A maligned monarch found under a parking lot was buried in pomp Thursday, as Britain embraced comeback King Richard III, a long-reviled ruler who is experiencing a remarkable, posthumous renaissance.

Royalty, religious leaders and actor Benedict Cumberbatch joined archeologists, Richard's distant relatives and curious Britons for a service in Leicester Cathedral that saw the king's bones buried with dignity, 530 years after his violent death.

"Richard's posthumous reputation has been less than glorious," Gordon Campbell, the University of Leicester's public orator, noted with understatement about a man whose name was long a byword for villainy.

But now, Campbell said, he has "the greatest following of all English monarchs" apart from Queen Elizabeth II.

Britain in the 21st century has enthusiastically embraced the story of the medieval king whose battle-scarred skeleton was found under a parking lot in Leicester in 2012.

BACKGROUND

History in the making

Richard was buried, without a coffin, in a church that was later demolished. For centuries his image was defined by William Shakespeare's Richard III — a hunchbacked, power-hungry tyrant who murdered his two young nephews because they were rivals for the crown. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands came to view his coffin ahead of Thursday's service, which was televised live.

In his sermon, Bishop of Leicester Tim Stevens said the discovery of the skeleton "has broken open not just a car park, but a nation's story."

Stevens said Richard was found just 40 metres from where he was being reburied.

The service was the culmination of a wave of Richardmania that has been building since archeologists looking for Richard dug up a skeleton with a distinctively curved spine.

Scientific sleuthing — including radiocarbon dating, bone analysis and DNA tests — confirmed the remains belonged to the long-lost king, who died at the Battle of Bosworth, near Leicester, in 1485.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUPREME COURT

Prince's private letters to be published

Prime Minister David Cameron and Prince Charles expressed dismay Thursday at a Supreme Court ruling that paves the way for the publication of Charles' private letters to government ministers.

A spokesman for Charles said "Clarence House is disappointed the principle of privacy has not been upheld."

The case involves 27 letters Charles wrote to seven government departments 10

years ago. Known as "black spider" letters, they are believed to contain strong personal views.

Critics have charged that Charles has become too involved in advocating positions.

He is first in line for the throne, and is expected to remain politically neutral.

In the past he has expressed strong views on architecture, climate change and genetically modified foods, among

other matters.

The government has long tried to block the release of the letters, but the Supreme Court upheld an earlier ruling backing their publication.

Cameron said the government will now consider how to release the documents, which have been sought by the Guardian newspaper under freedom of information rules for roughly a decade.

The prime minister said the

case was about "the principle that senior members of the royal family are able to express their views to government confidentially. I think most people would agree this is fair enough."

The timetable for the release of the letters is not yet clear.

The Guardian's chief editor, Alan Rusbridger, said editors are "delighted" with the decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Unrest grows in Yemen as Saudis, allies plan invasion

MIDDLE EAST

Houthi leader defiant under air strikes

The turmoil in Yemen grew into a regional conflict Thursday, with Saudi Arabia and its allies bombing Shiite rebels allied with Iran, while Egyptian officials said a ground assault will follow the airstrikes.

Iran denounced the Saudi-led air campaign, saying it "considers this action a dangerous step." Oil prices jumped in New York and London after the offensive.

The military action turned impoverished and chaotic Yemen into a new front in the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Yemen's U.S.-backed President Abed-Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled the country Wednesday as the rebels, known as Houthis, advanced on his stronghold in the southern port of Aden, reappeared Thursday.

He arrived by plane in Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh, Saudi state TV reported.

Starting before dawn, Saudi warplanes pounded an air base, military bases and anti-aircraft positions in the capital of Sanaa and flattened a number of homes near the airport, killing at least 18 civilians, including six children. Another round followed in the evening, again rocking the city.

Rebel leader Abdul-Malik



Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, hold up their weapons Thursday to protest against Saudi-led air strikes, as they chant slogans during a rally in Sanaa, Yemen. HANI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yemenis won't accept such humiliation.

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, leader of the Houthi Yemeni Shiite rebels

al-Houthi angrily accused the United States, Saudi Arabia and Israel of launching a "criminal, unjust, brutal and sinful" campaign aimed at invading and occupying Yemen.

"Yemenis won't accept such humiliation," he said in a televised speech Thursday night, calling the Saudis "stupid" and "evil."

The Houthis, who have taken over much of the country, mobilized thousands of supporters to protest the airstrikes, with one speaker lashing out at the

Saudi-led coalition and warning that Yemen "will be the tomb" of the aggressors.

White House spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters on Air

Force One en route to Alabama that President Barack Obama had authorized logistical and intelligence support for the strikes, but that the U.S. is not joining with direct military action.

In the air assault codenamed "Operation Decisive Storm," Saudi Arabia deployed some 100 fighter jets, 150,000 soldiers and other navy units, Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV reported.

Also involved were aircraft from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan and Egypt, though it was not clear which carried out actual strikes.

Once the airstrikes have weakened the rebels and their allies in the military forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a ground invasion of Yemen is planned by Egyptian, Saudi and other forces.

The assault will come from Saudi Arabia and by landings on Yemen's coasts along the Red and Arabian seas, according to three Egyptian military and security officials.

Three to five Egyptian troop carriers are stationed offshore, they said, although the number of troops was not specified, and the timing of the operation was not given.

The aim is not to occupy Yemen but to weaken the Houthis and their allies until they enter negotiations for power-sharing, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONFLICT

Gazans committed war crimes: Amnesty

The human rights group Amnesty International said in a report Thursday that Palestinian militants committed war crimes during the 2014 Gaza conflict by killing both Israeli and Palestinian civilians using indiscriminate projectiles.

The report comes after two other reports issued in late 2014 that accused Israel of war crimes for attacks on multistory civilian buildings and Palestinian homes during the war.

The 50-day Gaza war left dead more than 2,100 Palestinians, mostly civilians, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials. On the Israeli side, 66 soldiers and six civilians were killed.

Palestinian militants, including the armed wing of Hamas, launched unguided rockets and mortars from civilian areas toward other civilian areas, a breach of international law, the human rights group said.

The report also alleged other international humanitarian law violations during the conflict, including Palestinian militant groups' storing munitions in civilian buildings and United Nations schools, and launching attacks near locations where hundreds of displaced civilians were taking shelter.

"The devastating impact of Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians during the conflict is undeniable, but violations by one side in a conflict can never justify violations by their opponents," said Philip Luther of Amnesty International.

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Oklahoma Natural Gas workers walk through the tornado-damaged River Oaks Estates mobile home park on Thursday in Sand Springs, Okla. SUE OGROCKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Storm kills one in U.S. midwest

OKLAHOMA

Tens of thousands without power across state

The first batch of severe weather in the U.S. tornado season devastated an Oklahoma mobile home park, as storms across the area damaged buildings, tore off roofs and left debris strewn across roads. One person was killed and several were injured.

Tens of thousands of Oklahoma residents were without power early Thursday as officials assessed the damage.

Weather patterns this month funneled cold air into much of the country, depriving the atmosphere of the warm, moist air necessary for forming bad storms for most of the month.

Joe Sellers, a National Weather

 NUCLEAR

U.S.-Iran try to make deal

3.1.1. Iran to make deal
Nuclear negotiations between the United States and Iran entered a critical phase on Thursday with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meeting his Iranian counterpart less than a week away from a deadline to secure the outline of a deal.

Kerry and Iranian Foreign

MILITARY

Soldier details 'hellish' Taliban captivity

U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl says he was tortured repeatedly in the five years he was held captive by the Taliban: beaten with a copper cable, chained spread-eagle to a bed, and threatened with execution after trying to escape.

Bergdahl, 28, described this harsh treatment in Afghanistan in a note his lawyer released Thursday, after sharing it with the Army in an attempt to avert a court martial.

The Army charged Bergdahl nevertheless with desertion and misbehaviour before the enemy, for leaving his post in June 2009. He was freed last year in exchange for five Taliban commanders held prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Now he faces up to life in prison if convicted of the criminal charges.

The case against Bergdahl has been highly politicized, with members of Congress demanding he be sent to prison.

Wednesday's charges prompted fresh criticism of President Barack Obama.

Bergdahl says he tried about a dozen times to escape, and that his captors' response was brutal.

"In the beginning of my captivity, after my first two escape attempts, for about three months I was chained to a bed spread-eagle and blindfolded," Bergdahl wrote.

He also says he was beaten with a rubber hose, fists and

hit with the butt of an AK-47, so hard the rifle's stock broke off.

Eugene Fidell, one of Bergdahl's lawyers, said this suffering should be considered when weighing any punishment.

"This is a hellish environment he was kept in for nearly five years, particularly after he did his duty in trying to escape," Fidell, a former military lawyer now in private practice, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRTC wants contracts easier to understand

Canada's broadcast regulator issued its final thrust Thursday in a series of moves aimed at positioning consumers "in the driver's seat" ahead of the country's broadcasters, offering up a draft code that would require cable and satellite companies to make customer contracts easier to understand.

Broadcast service providers would also have to more

clearly spell out fees and policies surrounding early contract cancellations and adding or removing individual channels under the code.

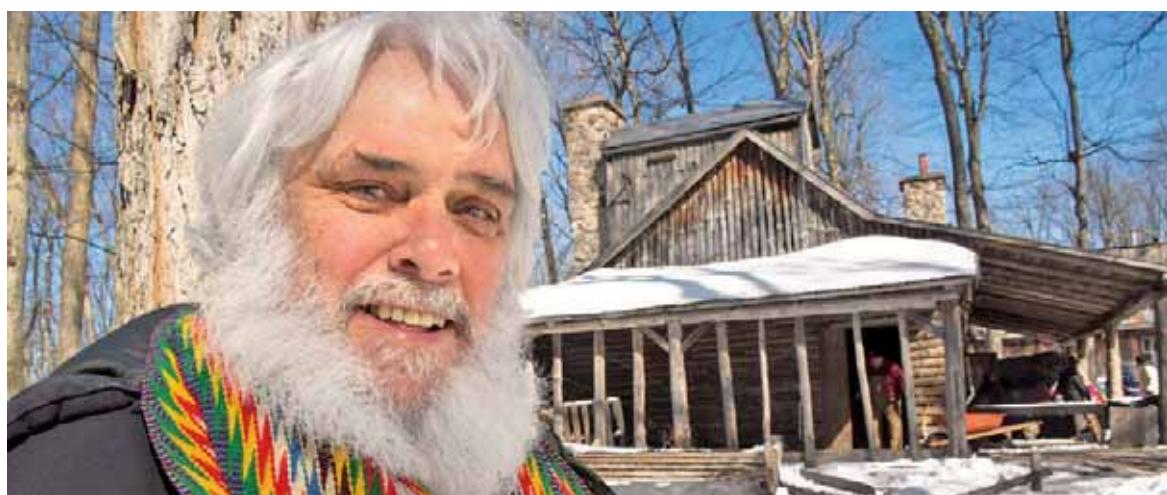
CRTC also said it expects closed-captioning services for Canadians with disabilities to be included free of charge when those programs are broadcast online and on mobile devices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

| | |
|--|--|
| DOLLAR 80.19¢ (+0.30¢) | TSX 14,869.80 (-59.57) |
| OIL \$51.43 US (+\$2.22) | GOLD \$1,204.80 US (+\$7.80) |
| NATURAL GAS : \$2.672 US (-5.1¢) DOW JONES : 17,678.23 (-40.31) | |

Listeria scare

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says a chicken product is being recalled due to concerns about possible Listeria contamination. The affected product is Lilydale Inc.-brand Oven Roasted Carved Chicken Breast in 400-gram packages. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Pierre Faucher, owner of Sucrerie de la Montagne in Rigaud, Que., at his sugar shack on Tuesday. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Long winter slows down maple-syrup business

SEASONAL INDUSTRIES

Producers need warmer weather to get the sap flowing

Just like any other crop, maple syrup is at the mercy of Mother Nature — and the frigid winter hasn't been kind to Canadian sugar-bush owners.

Many producers, like Ray Bonenber of Mapleside Sugar Bush south of Pembroke, Ont., are keeping a close eye on the thermometer and anxiously waiting for a stretch of warmer days to get the sap flowing.

"I've been tapping all day,

drilling holes and tapping, and it's running on the south side of the tree but not on the north side of the tree. It's too cold," said Bonenber, who is also president of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association.

But Bonenber is unfazed, because last season was also late due to the cold temperatures.

Production can vary widely from north to south. A few producers in the Sault Ste. Marie area boiled until May 1 last year, while those south of Highway 7 in Ontario were finished by the second week of April.

Quebec is experiencing a similar situation to Ontario this season, according to Caroline Cyr of the Federation of Quebec Maple Syrup Producers.

Nature doesn't have a watch.

Pierre Faucher, owner of Sucrerie de la Montagne

"In general, the season is late," she said, adding that she expects it to begin in earnest by the end of March.

Pierre Faucher, owner of Sucrerie de la Montagne in Rigaud, Que., was jubilant this week as sap started dripping into his 3,500 buckets. He's not letting the delay get to him.

After all, says Faucher, you can't control Mother Nature.

"Nature doesn't have a

watch," Faucher said from his operation west of Montreal. A combination of nights below freezing and days above freezing is needed to get the sap flowing in sugar-maple trees.

Faucher and four others gather sap by hand and boil it over a wood fire in a sugar shack. It takes about 40 litres of maple sap to make one litre of maple syrup. "Normal people have pipelines and pumps and stuff, but I wanted to keep it traditional," he said.

Deep snow in the Maritimes has meant producers have had to do some digging to uncover their lines. But sap flow a few weeks behind schedule was buying them time to get their trees tapped. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOP SIX@6

Weeknights at 6 Kat counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

101.3 THE BOUNCE

6 Ellie Henderson
Ghost

5 The Weeknd
Earned It

4 Maroon 5
Sugar

3 Nick Jonas
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2 Taylor Swift
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1 Ed Sheeran
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Your essential daily news

Weekend, March 27-29, 2015

Strange love

THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler



I used to think online dating was an inorganic and awkward way to meet people.

"Hello, my computer says we might get along, would you like to eat pho together?"

And maybe it is a little weird, but on second thought, the new-ish phenomenon of apps such as Tinder and Ok-Cupid look totally natural when compared to the age-old art form of matchmaking.

Two B.C. women are asking for their money back after paying a matchmaking service, LifeMates Canada, thousands of dollars to find them Mr. Right ... or at least Mr. Pretty Good. Both women claim that LifeMates set them up on dates with men that came nowhere near to what they'd asked for.

While I feel for the women involved, I don't think they should get their money back because in the words of the Beatles: Can't Buy Me Love.

I hated the movie Inception; I have other friends who thought it was a masterpiece. I think John Fluevog shoes are an affront to the feet they're worn on; I have a friend who won't wear any other brand. If movies and shoes are subjective, why would anyone think we could agree on who's lovable?

I went on a blind date once. My friends told me the guy was tall, dark and cute. I pictured Tom Cruise (on stilts). When I got to the date, my heart sank. The guy wasn't ugly — he was attractive — but he wasn't what I had pictured and he wasn't my type. What is my type? Ha! I wouldn't be able to tell you until I saw it and even then I probably wouldn't be

able to pinpoint what it was about that person that caught my eye.

This isn't only about looks. A man who's "funny" to some, might be a Yakov Smirnoff to others. Maybe he's a "great cook," but he cooks vegan and you like steak. There are a million reasons why a good quality on paper might not live up to itself in real life. And what about pheromones and body language and fashion choices? Your date might be nice and cute and smart, but you're too distracted by the socks-and-sandals look to notice.

I've dated online and yes, there were (many) times I was disappointed in that scenario, too. Maybe the guy didn't look like his photo or his funny email banter translated to awkward real-life conversation. One guy kept making racist jokes while another somehow had me paying for

everything (actually, I think that was the same guy). But on my way home from those dates, at least I knew I had chosen those men.

I had no one to blame for the losers I was dating but myself.

Matchmakers are middlemen while online dating services basically act as a directory of "who's single." You peruse, you choose. Compared to LifeMates Canada, OkCupid looks as natural as a drug-free birth.

If I can't trust the people who know me best to buy me a sweater I like for Christmas, why would anyone trust a stranger to find them love?

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From naked neighbours to cat lady whisperers,

Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



Grin and bare it

People in Charlotte, N.C., will not get a reprieve from the sight of their neighbour standing buck naked by his doorway several times a week. Police say that while the local law prohibits being nude in places the public has access to, there's nothing that can be done in this case. Maybe it's time for the local residents association to take matters into their own hands and strategically plant some shrubbery in front of naked dude's yard.



Beginning of the end (fingers crossed)

In what's been heralded as an important step in eliminating the virus for good, researchers "deleted" HIV from human DNA. The scientists used a DNA-snipping enzyme to cut out the virus, and then the cell's repair machinery took over, fusing the cell back together. And as if this isn't excellent enough, the process potentially could be applied to many other diseases. Not bad scientists, not bad.



Hey kitty kitty kitty

Hey guys, can we drop the crazy cat-lady trope already? Beth-Ann Colebourne delighted the Internet this week when she posted a video to YouTube of a lynx she spotted outside her northern Ontario shop. But then a bunch of meanies questioned her sanity because she says things in the video like, "What's up, buddy?" to the wild cat. Listen, trolls: Colebourne has chased a bear away before. She is an animal whisperer. She's awesome, and she's got it covered, OK?



A whole new world

Are you in desperate need of a break from the repetitive monotony of your life, daydreaming of perhaps being on a palm-tree lined beach? And you know how even if you can't immediately make that place your reality, just the thought of being there makes you feel so much better? Expand your fantasy repertoire with this new Japanese exhibit. Artists created an immersive interactive garden of 2,300 floating flowers inspired by a Zen koan. Domo arigato, guys, for creating a beautiful world where person and flower become one.

metr
Your essential daily news

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan



SPINOZA

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview



Vince Gasparro's: The kind of place that makes a neighbourhood.

Nick Gasparro had a hard time keeping up a phone conversation on Thursday behind the counter of his family butcher shop. Customers kept walking into the store, some in search of an Easter ham, others offering their condolences on the recent death of Vincenzo Gasparro, Nick's father and the founder of the family business.

"Hold on," Nick, 42, said to me over the phone.

Then I heard a woman's voice. "I just found out yesterday about your dad. I'm so sorry," she said.

"Thank you," Nick said. "Thank you for coming, honey."

Vince Gasparro's Meat Market has stood on Toronto's west-end corner of Bloor Street and Roxton Road since 1960. And it's exactly the kind of place that makes a neighbourhood worth living in.

They're in every Canadian city. Mom-and-pop shops, they're called dismissively.

They're not the country's economic leaders, if you go by GDP. Most of that is driven by mid-sized or large companies, as CIBC economist Benjamin Tal noted. Industry Canada doesn't even break down the contribution of companies with less than 49 employees (a group which makes up 30 per cent of the GDP).

But these micro-businesses also account for 75 per cent of companies that employ people in Canada. They are nimble, adaptable, the economic equivalent of the "oil that oils

the machine," Tal said.

Plus, he added, "there are some things that you cannot measure."

For example, what does it mean when longtime customer Vanessa, 34, calls the butcher shop "an institution"?

How do you measure the impact of hiring the likes of 24-year-old Mik, who is also a musician, by offering him a flexible, reliable part-time job while he pursues his dreams?

What is the worth of a man like Vince, who knew everybody's name, and their kids, and their grandkids; who took IOUs when customers were short at the end of the month; who went to the funerals and wedding of his customers, and whose customers, in turn, filled an old stone church one rainy morning this week? These are intangibles, but they have an economic impact just by drawing people to want to call this corner of a city home.

It's challenging times for independent shops forced to compete against national chains with deep pockets. But without these kinds of businesses, and the people who run them, our cities would be all the more uniform, all the less human.

I asked Nick, who has been a butcher with his father for 20 years, how long he wanted to keep the store going.

"I don't know that, honey, for as long as I'm going to be here," he said. "Hopefully a long time."

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Ferrell's fearless with the funny

GET HARD

Comedian is always up for slapstick promo stunts

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



You can tell Will Ferrell has a new movie coming out because he's doing the darnest things.

On March 12, he played for 10 Major League Baseball teams in five spring training games in one day. Since then he's roasted Justin Bieber, walked red carpets at South By Southwest, dressed as a leprechaun with David Letterman, appeared on The Tonight Show in drag as snack cake queen Little Debbie, and traded barbs with Jon Stewart while wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with dozens of pictures of Zach Galifianakis.

He's pulling out all the stops to make sure everyone knows Get Hard, his comedy about a rich man who hires a coach (Kevin Hart) to prep him for prison, opens this weekend.

A few years ago, I landed in the middle of one of Ferrell's outlandish publicity stunts.

In July 2012 he was stumping for The Campaign, a political satire co-starring Galifianakis. The hot-and-steamy Toronto summer afternoon began with the actors riding down Yonge Street, throw-



Sitting on a bucket with his pants down? No big deal for Ferrell. Get Hard opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

ing out campaign buttons to passersby until they arrived at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Inside, I hosted a press conference with them and Mayor Rob Ford. Onstage, actors posing as Mounties guarded the Stanley Cup as Ford, then the most famous, and controversial, politician in Canada, gave the guys advice on how to campaign. Nothing was rehearsed and everyone was a bit nervous as I brought the three to the dais.

Ferrell talked about what

happened next on the Late Show with David Letterman.

"We step up to the mic. We're supposed to say a few words, and I say, 'How about a big round of applause for your mayor, Rob Ford.' It was literally ... not even a smattering of applause, just two people."

"It was just so silent that I actually had to comment on it. So I said, 'Mr. Mayor, that's a horrible ovation,' and the press corps burst out laughing. And he was just laughing.

It was just so silent that I actually had to comment on it. So I said, 'Mr. Mayor, that's a horrible ovation.'

Will Ferrell on doing a stunt with Rob Ford



He didn't care. Just sweaty."

Ford was a good sport and played along. He gave them each a miniature Stanley Cup,

pinned "Rob Ford for Mayor" buttons on their chests and handed out his famous business cards, fridge



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Lili Sepe, Olivia Luccardi, and Keir Gilchrist in *It Follows*. MONGREL MEDIA

Big scares for the big screen

INTERVIEW

It Follows' director places viewer in the line of fright

Matt Prigge
Metro in New York City

The indie horror *It Follows*, like *The Babadook* last year, is being hailed as a genuinely terrifying antidote to bigger budgeted counterparts, like *Ouija*. But its writer-director, David Robert Mitchell, doesn't come from the genre. His last film was 2010's *The Myth of the American Sleepover*, a tiny, sensitive American Graffiti-type teen movie. *It Follows* at times feels like that movie, with a 19-year-old (Maika Monroe) finding that, after sleeping with the guy she's been seeing, she's been gifted a strange curse: she will be followed by mysterious creatures visible only to her, who take on the form of regular people and will kill her if they ever catch her.

Let's get this out of the way: Some people have read this along the lines of old slasher movies, in which sex equals death. Your version doesn't seem to cut and dry, though.

I hope it goes beyond that. The characters certainly open themselves up to danger through sex. But sex is also a way in which they can be temporarily freed. It's not so simple. To me, it's not literally about sex. It's about life in general, sex being a very important part of that. By the act of living we are in danger. We all live with the idea of mortal-

ity in the back of our mind, not knowing how long we're here for. At a certain point you become more aware of that. And there is a direct awareness of sexuality and awareness of mortality. Sex and love are ways in which we can push death away, at least for a moment. It's a way of living in the moment.

Jay also doesn't just sleep around. She sleeps with someone she's been seeing.

Yeah, she cares about this person. Some people have read it as though that's the first time she's had sex. I don't see that either. For me it's not about demonizing sex, or some kind of puritanical statement, as some people have said. Everyone has the right to think what they want about the film; I don't know how much my

intentions matter. But it is interesting to see different reads on the movie. Horror films tend to create all kinds of responses.

It's a genre that, more so than respectable fare, really allows for unique and even transgressive ideas.

Audiences for horror films tend to allow filmmakers to be a little more experimental. You can get away with more than with other genres. You can do things that would irritate an audience or some people within other genres. Horror audiences are very open-minded.

Speaking of which, this film will soon wind up on VOD. But it seems the ideal way to experience it is in a theatre.

That's the way to see it. So much of the film is in wide-angle shots. It's not relying on

BACKGROUND

When the characters aren't fleeing from a mysterious pursuer, the film hangs with them and it has a quiet, laid-back vibe. "When I wrote this I had just done *Myth*," says Mitchell. "I thought it'd be fun to take that idea and imagine a character from that world as a little bit older, then just throw them into a nightmare. The film is very much about

waiting — about waiting for something to happen. It's about anxiety, about the middle spaces, where these characters are interacting in a normal way that could come straight from the other film, then they're waiting for something horrific to happen. The moments of attack are very different, but the moments in between are very similar."

close-ups. Close-ups in films that are constructed around tighter shots play well when watched on an iPad or something. You can watch this that way, but to really feel the film, you need a large screen. It's supposed to be immersive. We tried to shoot it in a way that you actually feel physically placed within these environments. You can look in the distance, you can look at the edges of frames. You're scanning the frames, looking out for the characters, looking out for yourself. It's supposed to be experiential. You're not going to get that as much if you watch it on a small screen. And the music — you want the sound cranked up.

HOUSTON

McConaughey's potentially hefty speaking fee not for the public: Agent

A celebrity booking agency has told the Texas attorney general's office it is not all right, all right, all right to make public how much the University of Houston is paying actor Matthew McConaughey to speak at the school's May 15 commencement ceremony.

The university has declined to release the information because its contract with California-based Celebrity Talent International includes a confidentiality clause that gives the agency a chance to object. The school has asked the attorney

general's office to issue an opinion on whether such information can be kept private.

Celebrity Talent International President Glenn Richardson sent a March 9 letter to the attorney general's office, saying payment and other details in McConaughey's contract are a trade secret, the Houston Chronicle reports.

Richardson wrote that "a reporter or someone else" could use the information to create "unfair negatives online and take things out of context."

Richardson's letter also argued that releasing Mc-

Conaughey's contract details could hurt the company's business and give an unfair edge to its competitors.

"I understand that there needs to be transparency with some things, but it seems that after reading the statutes I was referred to, that our company's communications, emails and agreement details should be deferred due to things related to unfair competition with my competitors and also for Mr. McConaughey's security," said Richardson, who misspelled McConaughey's name throughout

his letter.

While Richardson has asked that the amount of McConaughey's speaking fee not be released, his agency's website states that the minimum fee to book McConaughey in the U.S. ranges from \$150,000 to \$499,000.

A university spokeswoman did not immediately have answers to questions in an email seeking comment Thursday.

The school said in a statement last month that it does not believe the contract information is confidential.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



McConaughey is scheduled to speak at the University of Houston's commencement ceremony. GETTY IMAGES

Crack up with Ferrell and Hart

MOVIES

Stars of Get Hard get you laughing. What else is new?

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart have made names for themselves for being hilarious on film and TV screens, but can they be funny on paper? We sat down to chat with the Get Hard stars to find out. You be the judge.

Reporter sits down, places digital recorder on table...

Will Ferrell: Is everyone cool with this? It's a Sony product...

Kevin Hart: Will, that's not... you didn't have to go there.

Kevin, when are we going to get a movie where somebody's helping you out?

Hart: I like to be in charge. You know, me and Denzel have this thing about being in charge. I'm

talking about doing Equalizer, the next one. Equalizer: Part 2. Ferrell: I love it.

Hart: Re-equalized is what they call it. It's called Equal Plus Equal. Ferrell: You're not going to get any argument from me.

Hart: No, you know what? I've started out in a place with characters where it was constantly reacting, reacting, reacting, and now it's in a place where the characters are a little bit more grounded and relatable. If this pattern continues to go, of course I think you'll see it flop. But in this particular film I'm playing two characters in the movie, so I love that I'm giving audiences the best of both worlds. As is Will.

He's all right, I guess.

Hart: Well, in this movie I think he could've been better, but at this point you take what you can.

Ferrell: I did not give my best effort, I'm not going to lie.

Hart: Every day, Will showed up and was like, "I don't know about you, but I'm here for the

cheque." That's what he would say, every day, and I was like, "What the f— was that?"

Ferrell: I kept checking to make sure I was going to make the Pelicans game. Because we shot in New Orleans. But we were never butting heads in terms of comedy style or whatever.

Hart: There was the one time when you were like, "I'm going to my f—ing trailer. Kevin's up seven to nothing." He kept score.

Ferrell: I count the lines. I'll go through a script and I'll count the lines. I told Kevin first thing, "Hey, we're going to have a great time, but I have counted the lines and I have 30 more lines than you, and I feel good about that." I don't feel like that's too many more lines.

How'd he get ahead?

Ferrell: I just noticed. One day he was just coming up with all this great stuff, and I was down seven. So I just ended that. We wrapped at 11:30 a.m. that day.

NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO



Catch Kevin Hart and Will Ferrell in Get Hard when it hits theatres this Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Now in theatres



HORROR It Follows

Director: David Robert Mitchell
Starring: Maika Monroe, Keir Gilchrist

After a strange sexual encounter, a teenager finds herself haunted by nightmarish visions and the inescapable sense that something is after her.



ANIMATED Home

Director: Tim Johnson
Starring: Jim Parsons, Rihanna

When Oh, a lovable misfit from another planet, lands on Earth and finds himself on the run, he forms an unlikely friendship with a girl named Tip who is on a quest of her own. Through a series of adventures with Tip, Oh comes to understand that being different and making mistakes is all part of being human.



COMEDY Get Hard

Director: Etan Cohen
Starring: Will Ferrell, Kevin Hart

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart headline this Warner Bros. comedy about a wrongfully convicted investment banker who prepares for prison life with the help of the man who washes his car. Etan Cohen directs, with Ian Roberts and Jay Martel handling screenwriting duties.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 94% Audience: 72%

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 40% Audience: 69%

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 28% Audience: 95%



SUBJECT TO CLASSIFICATION

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Getting a real feel for movies

FUTURE OF CINEMA

Virtual reality technology catches eye of filmmakers

Matt Kwong
Metro | Life

Comfy seating. Hot popcorn. And a stereoscopic virtual-reality headset for your viewing pleasure. It's a new cinematic experience envisioned by Hollywood and electronics manufacturers keen to tap into the hot VR market.

In recent years, Microsoft, Sony, Facebook, Google and Samsung have assumed a "gold-rush mentality" for VR, tech analyst Kevin Restivo said.

"As the core technology becomes refined for the masses, they're looking for wider applications," he said. "The movies are an obvious one."

Whereas the usual movie-watching experience is a one-directional affair, VR lets you step inside a scene, giving you the feeling you can move around in a film's environment. If you see an image on screen, or if a character is to your left, you can turn your head instead to the right and explore your surroundings with a 360-degree view.

The technology definitely caught the interest of attendees at this year's Sundance film festival.

A section dedicated to VR filmmaking was a main attraction at the fest. Users donned 3D wraparound goggles to experience an original scene from *Wild* between Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern.

Last month, premium cable network HBO and Lionsgate, the studio behind the \$1.5-billion *Hunger Games* franchise, announced content creation deals for HTC's much-hyped Vive system.

Beyond gaming, it's "the next logical step" for the Vive, said Jeff Gattis, an HTC spokesman.

"We can take content and brands that are known, and just open up new windows of entertainment," he said. "Whether that's going to be full features or clips, at a minimum, it's the creation of immersive virtual reality experiences."

That immersion aspect is what most excites Tre Azam. His U.K. company manufactures MyndPlay, a brainwave-sensing headband which, when used with VR displays such as the Oculus, allows a viewer to "change the storyline" of a video based on emotional responses.

"We've got a MyndGuardian video that puts you into an attack scenario where you're being mugged," Azam said. "You can train your mind into going into fight or flight mode. Maybe you want to defend yourself instead of panicking."

Developers, he said, have built some videos with 32 possible interactions.

"Imagine you've got a

90-minute movie where every scene could have a different possibility thrown in," he said.

So far, studios have been mostly leveraging VR experiences to hype up their big productions.

In collaboration with Lionsgate, Samsung's Gear VR device released a short on March 20 to promote the second film in its popular *Divergent* series.

Insurgent: Shatter Reality starred actors reprising their roles from the films.

HBO has experimented with short movie-making for VR headsets as well.

Attendees at last year's South By Southwest lined up to demo a *Game of Thrones* experience using Facebook's Oculus Rift VR headset. Users joined the Night's Watch and climbed a ladder to the top of the 700-foot ice wall.

As for when full-length VR feature films might ever take off as main cinematic attractions? That's hard to tell, said independent filmmaker Elli Raynai, who is completing his VR short for the Oculus Rift.

"I don't know if virtual reality is going to replace cinema," Raynai said. "All I know is it has different rules, it presents a new way of telling stories, and that's exciting for filmmakers."

Q&A

Cinephile Jesse Wente, director of film programs at TIFF Bell Lightbox shared some thoughts on the technology.

On the lasting power of VR films: "I think we're a little early in the days to dismiss it as a gimmick."

On the solitude aspect of VR: "I think you'd be hard-pressed to create a physical communal experience if the idea is total immersion in a virtual world."

On the difference between VR and cinema:

"I wouldn't rule out some kind of future in which virtual reality can offer something similar to the movie-going experience. But ultimately, seeing a movie is seeing a moving in cinema. There's been no way to recreate it for 100 years."

MATT KWONG/METRO



A scene from *Insurgent*: Shatter Reality for Samsung's Gear VR.

VIRTUAL REALITY

A look at the VR headsets

1 Oculus Rift/Facebook (formerly Oculus Rift) Two development kits released. No consumer release date yet. DK2 costs \$350.

2 Project Morpheus/Sony Head-mounted display to be compatible with PlayStation 4 and PlayStation Vita gaming consoles. Anticipated early 2016 release.

3 Google Cardboard/Google Google's DIY device folds out from a piece of cardboard to turn a smartphone into a

VR headset. Users can download the app and either purchase a toolkit online, or build one themselves by following free online tutorials.

4 The Vive/HTC Marketed as a "premium" virtual reality experience, and powered by SteamVR. Anticipated release in the spring.

5 Samsung Gear VR/Samsung This is the first head-mounted display to hit the market, and costs \$199 US. The headmount was specifically designed to work with a Galaxy Note 4 smartphone.

6 Virtual Boy/Nintendo Released in 1995, then quickly discontinued the following year after poor sales and reports that some players were experiencing headaches from overuse. Originally retail for around \$180 US.



PHOTOS COURTESY
HTC AND CANADIAN
FILM CENTRE

Imagine you've got a 90-minute movie where every scene could have a different possibility thrown in

Tre Azam of Myndplay

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A Terminator for all seasons



Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke, Jai Courtney, and Arnold Schwarzenegger pose for a portrait during press day for *Terminator: Genisys* in Los Angeles. CASEY CURRY/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TERMINATOR: GENISYS

Arny's back to introduce the Terminator to a new generation

With four films (two great, two questionable), over \$1 billion in box office receipts, and a jumbled time-travel mythology, *Terminator: Genisys* is taking the elements of James Cameron's 1984 original and twisting them a bit to create an entirely new timeline. Two more Terminators are planned.

Getting a jump on a summer that's chock full of franchise fare, including continuations of *The Avengers* and *Jurassic Park*, Paramount Pictures recently showcased a few minutes of action-packed footage from *Terminator: Genisys*.

Key cast members, including Schwarzenegger, were also made available — all to help generate early buzz for what the studio hopes will be a bona fide summer blockbuster.

Paramount is on a major push to restore its once robust production prowess. Although its franchises, including *Transformers* and *Mission: Impossible*, are successful, the studio has lagged behind its Hollywood counterparts in recent years.

Seated on a massive couch

next to his three new co-stars, Schwarzenegger seemed glad to be back. "I watched all the movies again to really get up to speed with the character," he said.

The film opens in a familiar spot — 2029, when the war against the all-powerful artificial intelligence system Skynet is raging. Resistance leader John Connor (Jason Clarke) once again sends soldier Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney) back to 1984 to save his mother, Sarah Connor (Emilia Clarke), from being killed by a Terminator. But this time, things are different. Sarah has her own protector: An aged Terminator who has raised her since childhood.

"We're really harking back to James Cameron's original characters that were in one and two and we're taking it from there," said Emilia Clarke.

The project on the whole is an intensely hush-hush endeavour, but director Alan Taylor (*Thor: The Dark World*) has said many times that, at its heart, the film is about man's relationship to technology in the modern age. In 2015, that idea has evolved from when James Cameron first introduced us to the T-800 31 years ago.

"In '84, this was total science fiction — when machines take over. And now, we're there," said Schwarzenegger. "That's the wild thing about it. When



"In '84, this was total science fiction — when machines take over. And now, we're there."

Arnold Schwarzenegger

we did this movie, it was kind of almost reality, unlike in 1984 where we thought, 'oh well wouldn't this be a funny world.' Things have changed."

Jason Clarke jumped in to agree.

"Good science fiction is relatable. It mirrors what we're going through and Cameron set up wonderful, iconic metaphors and characters for us to play with," he said. "Judgment Day still exists. It just might not be nuclear."

While there are many *Terminator* die-hards out there waiting, as Courtney says, "to criticize this thing," when it finally hits theatres on July 1, he believes they'll be pleasantly surprised.

"The beauty of what we've done is not only stayed loyal to the original source material but opened it up to a whole new generation," said Courtney. "I think we'll succeed in bringing them in." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Tove Lo says the best revenge when you've been hurt by an ex is not caring anymore. GETTY IMAGES

Tove Lo has her head in the Clouds

INTERVIEW

Singer's debut album has her looking at love

Emily Laurence
Metro | New York City

HEART MATTERS

Tove Lo



I love being in love. I love the very beginning of a relationship, when things aren't defined and you're just having a great time together. When you're a couple, sometimes there's all these demands that come with it ...

She may have a penchant for bad habits, but that only makes things interesting. On Tove Lo's debut album *Queen of the Clouds*, sex comes before love and she deals with breakups by getting high, going to sex clubs and binge-eating Twinkies. The Swedish 27-year-old has had her fair share of heartbreak. We talk to her about the dark side of relationships and moving on after getting her heart broken.

On having great, no-strings-attached sex:
I've had a lot of sex without hoping it will turn into love. I can definitely separate the two. For me, it doesn't have

to be connected. But when you are in love with someone and you have sex, it's always better. But (good sex) can definitely cloud your judgment. Talking Body is about that. If you start off having great sex, things tend to last longer than if you started by going on a date and don't click.

The best revenge on an ex:
It's hard when you've been hurt. All you want is for the other person to be hurt as well. But the best revenge is just to not care anymore. The feeling of that person want-

ing you back when you're completely over it is the best revenge. I've been that person, wanting the other person back and he was like, 'No, you f-ed it up.' That was probably the hardest feeling for me because I ruined something really good and now I can't fix it.

Relationships versus the single life:

I like being single more, but somehow I always end up in a relationship. I love being in love. I love the very beginning of a relationship, when things aren't defined and you're just having a great time together. When you're a couple, sometimes there's all these demands that come with it, like 'Oh now that we're a couple, you can't do that.' But it becomes really beautiful when you show your weaknesses and flaws. I think it's easier to be single, but it's definitely worth it to be in a relationship when you really love someone.

READY FOR ANOTHER STAB AT LOVE

Tove Lo may have had some tough times with romance, but she's willing to give it another go.

- "I'm in a really great relationship right now and it's the first time I feel like it's easy," she says.
- This could definitely mark a change in her music. "My next album is maybe going to be a little happier, I think," she says.

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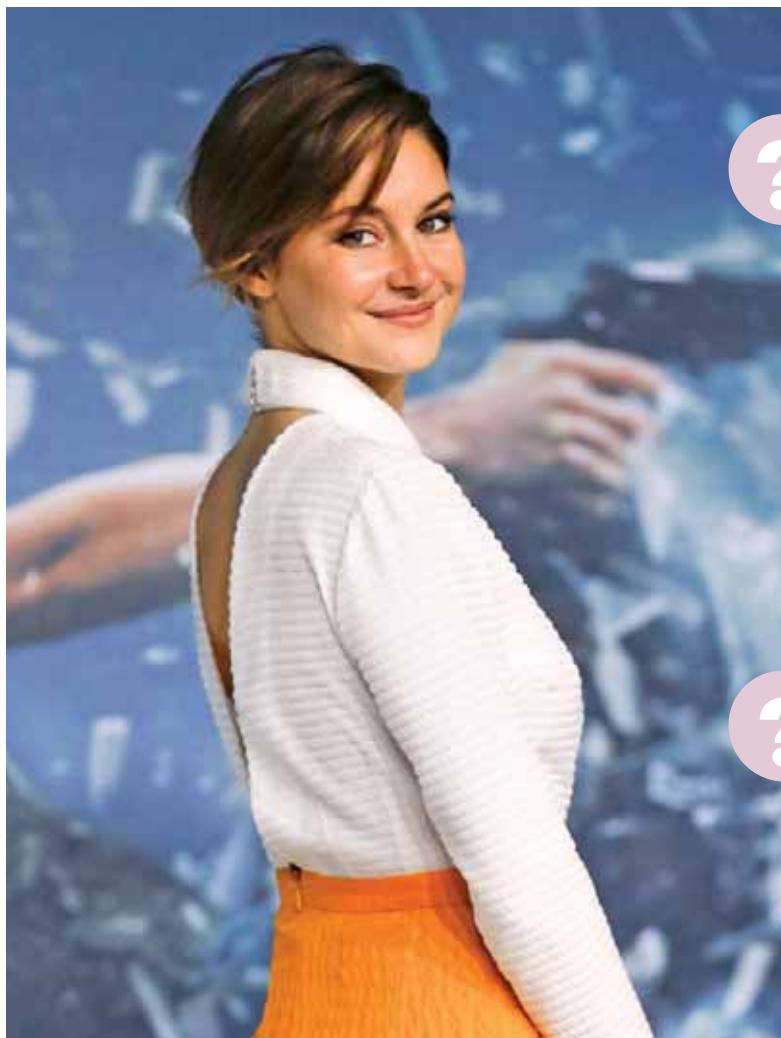
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What's next for Shailene



Shailene Woodley's star is on the rise. ALL PHOTOS THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/GETTY



Still basking in the box-office success of *Insurgent*, Shailene Woodley just might outdo herself after the franchise ends. Judging by her peers Jennifer Lawrence and Kristen Stewart, who both went from blockbuster franchises to award-winning careers, it's entirely possible. AFP

Oscar glow like Jennifer Lawrence

The parallels between *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* are obvious: both are sci-fi adventure stories with a strong-willed female protagonist and a dystopian setting. But there are also parallels between the career paths of the two stars: Woodley and Jennifer Lawrence. Both made a name for themselves on the big screen before age 20 thanks to indie roles. Lawrence claimed her first Oscar nomination for *Winter's Bone*, while Woodley grabbed a Golden Globe nomination for *The Descendants*, in which she co-starred with George Clooney.



Eclectic roles like Kristen Stewart

Woodley and Lawrence both call to mind another actress who rose to global stardom in a high-grossing franchise: former *Twilight* star Kristen Stewart. Since the last *Twilight* movie, the actress has appeared in Walter Salles' adaptation of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, a film that took her to the Cannes Film Festival in 2012. After *Snow White and the Huntsman*, Stewart has graced the screen in a number of acclaimed films, including *Sils Maria* by French director Olivier Assayas and *Still Alice* with Julianne Moore.



+ IN BRIEF

Steven Spielberg to direct Ready Player One

Deadline reports that the man who has helmed everything from *Jaws* and *E.T.* to *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Minority Report* is about to get to grips with an adaptation of the cult sci-fi novel.

Written by Ernest Cline and set in a dystopian 2044, *Ready Player One* revolves largely around a virtual reality game focused on references to 1980s pop culture. And, as Deadline points out, some of those references are to Spielberg himself.

It is understood that the film will be the next cinematic project in Spielberg's schedule following the completion of his current film — a big-screen adaptation of Roald Dahl's children's story *The BFG*. AFP

Mad Max to make long-awaited comeback at Cannes

Mad Max: Fury Road, the fourth film in the dystopian cult saga by director George Miller, will screen on May 14 at the Cannes Film Festival,



Mad Max is returning May 14. WARNER BROS PICTURES

the organizers confirmed Wednesday.

Thirty years after he first

rode on to cinema screens across the globe, "Mad" Max Rockatansky returns in the shape of English actor Tom Hardy, who replaces Mel Gibson, the star of the previous installments.

The film is due for global release immediately after its out-of-competition screening preview in Cannes, the festival said.

The announcement marks the long-awaited return of Australian director George Miller, 70, whose first *Mad Max* film became a worldwide hit in 1979. AFP

Fully animated Smurfs reboot announced

The new movie is scheduled to hit cinema screens on March 31, 2017 and promises to be closer to the original Peyo comic books than Sony's previous two attempts.

Sony's 2011 *The Smurfs*, and its 2013 sequel *The Smurfs 2*, mixed animation with live action and, in the case of the latter, Katy Perry. According to director Kelly Asbury, this hybrid approach is being dumped in favour of traditional animation for



Smurf fans will get another film in 2017. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the next instalment, as is any connection with the films that have preceded it. AFP



Linda Cardellini says the Florida Keys location of *Bloodline* is as much a part of the show as the cast. GETTY IMAGES

Linda finds the Keys to her heart

INTERVIEW

Star of Netflix's *Bloodline* is enthralled by Florida locale

Richard Crouse
Metro | Canada

Linda Cardellini's new show is filmed far from Hollywood. The former *Mad Men* co-star plays Meg Rayburn, wayward daughter of a large, secretive family in the Netflix series *Bloodline*. She co-stars with Kyle Chandler, Sam Shepard and Sissy Spacek, but says the Florida Keys location is as much a part of the show as the cast.

"It is otherworldly. It is different from anything I have known," she says.

"It is a place that has a duality to it. On one hand, it is extraordinarily beautiful and on the other there is this oppressive heat and slight danger that follows you around everywhere. When you're in the elements, there are a lot of things around you that are sometimes friendly to human beings and sometimes not so much. It's perfect for the show because it really shows

this paradise and on the other side there are these really dangerous things."

When she was first approached to do the *Bloodline*, there wasn't even a script for her to read.

"There was a pitch," she says, "and I had a meeting with (producer) Glen Kessler and he spoke so beautifully with so much rich detail about who this person is, what she means to the family, what the story means. To me, that was very exciting — how much he had to say and how much he knew."

"It showed to me that the creators of the show were very interested in each and every one of the characters. To have the family dynamic be appealing you have to understand every facet of the family."

The pitch won her over, in part because she had just binge watched the legal drama *Damages*, the last show from the same producers.

"When I watched *Damages*, I loved how they wrote for women," she says.

"I thought what could have been viewed as a stereotype was introduced and explored in such a fashion that broke all those stereotypes and broke all those glass ceilings about what a female character could or couldn't be. To me that was very exciting."

"You don't have to make an appointment with the television"

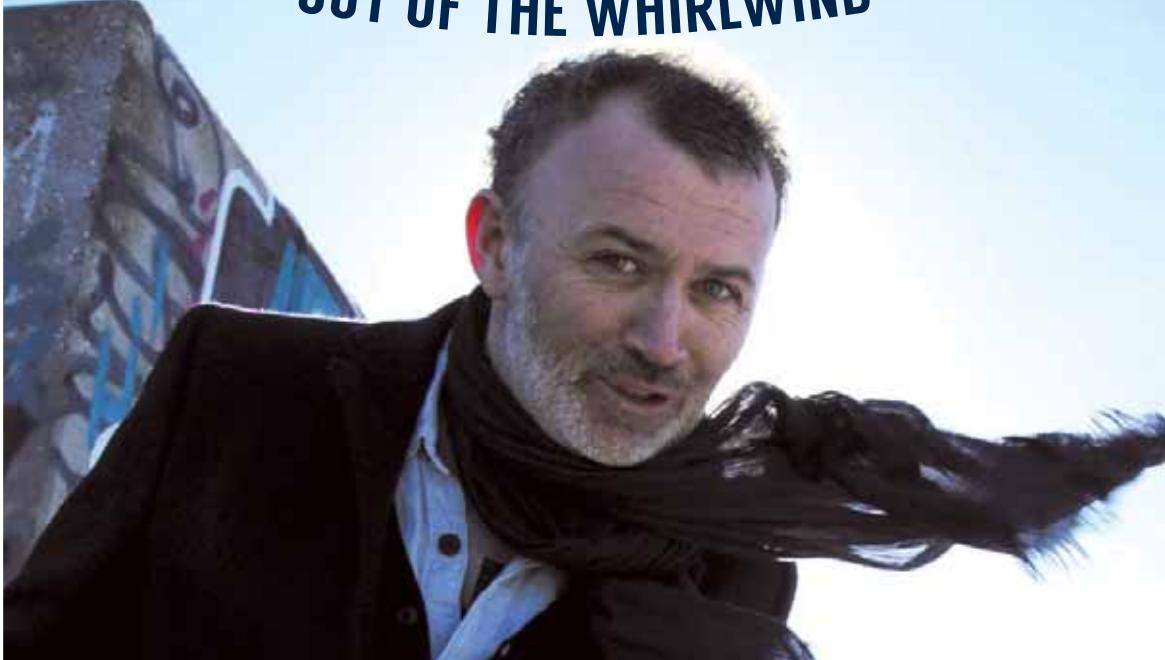
Linda Cardellini on the joys of binge watching



Kyle Chandler and Cardellini in Netflix's *Bloodline*. SAEED ADYANI /NETFLIX

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INTERVIEW

Actress Patricia Clarkson gushes about co-stars in October Gale

Patricia Clarkson's new thriller, *October Gale*, sees her working again with director Ruba Nadda, and starring opposite Callum Keith Rennie, Tim Roth and Scott Speedman.

"Can you imagine I got to be in a film with those men?" she says. "I arrived on the set and said, 'Oh my God, Ruba, I have died and gone to heaven.' Not only are they beautiful men, physically, but if you threw all their handsomeness out the window, they're gorgeous actors. First class ... singular actors."

The New Orleans native, an Academy Award nominee for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in *Pieces of April*, plays a doctor mourning the loss of her husband. For solace she retreats to a remote cottage in Georgian Bay. Her time of quiet reflection and healing is disrupted, however, by the ap-



Scott Speedman and Patricia Clarkson in *October Gale*. CONTRIBUTED

pearance of a mysterious and seriously injured young man, played by Speedman.

October Gale is the second collaboration between Clarkson and director Ruba Nadda.

"Rubia and I are very similar gals," Clarkson says.

"We like our hair and our lipstick and our high heels. I have four older sisters and

Rubba is truly like the little sister I never had. We are like family. We have a second language now. It's kismet. "I think I'm just the luckiest gal to know her and to have her so deeply in my life; in my professional life, in my personal life. I know her family now. I know her sisters ... We're just family and yet we are able to



She's Syrian-Palestinian and I'm Southern, so watch out

Patricia Clarkson on her relationship with Ruba Nadda

separate all of that when we enter the workplace. We're both workhorses. We're very high energy, we don't take no for an answer, we'll fight to the death. She's Syrian-Palestinian and I'm Southern, so watch out."

Their first film together, *Cairo Time*, was the Best Reviewed Romance on Rotten Tomatoes for 2010 and soon they will begin

work on a series for HBO. Clarkson says her on-set relationship with Nadda is based on respect and the director's unique vision.

"Rubia has the courage to make films that people want to make," she says, "the kind of movies auteurs think they're making, but she actually has the courage to do it."

RICHARD CROUSE/METRO

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The Emperor of All Maladies is like a State of the Union address on cancer. The three-part series will premiere on PBS on Monday. COURTESY PBS

One of our biggest fears, confronted

DOCUMENTARY

The Emperor of all Maladies takes a hard look at cancer

There's a mystery to cancer, in large part because of fear, that PBS tries to unravel in next week's six-hour documentary Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies.

"We're not really honest with each other," filmmaker Ken Burns said.

"We know about heart disease. We know about diabetes. We know about other things, but there's a kind of resistance because cancer is so scary."

Burns, who was 11 when his mother died of breast cancer, is executive producer of the film, directed by Barak Goodman. It's one of the few times Burns has been involved in a project that he didn't investigate.

The film airs over three consecutive nights beginning on March 30 and is inspired by

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee's Pulitzer Prize-winning book of the same title. Starting at its most elemental — how cancer got its name — the documentary tells the story of advances and setbacks in years of research on how the disease develops and is treated, through developments since Mukherjee's book was published in 2010.

Mukherjee sees it as a State of the Union address on cancer, a topic with a reach and complexity that can make the entirety of the federal government seem simple in comparison.

The film softens the science with individual stories of people fighting for their survival.

Cancer proves an elusive and resilient enemy. Much of the promising research has been done since the 1970s, establishing that the cell mutations that characterize the disease can be triggered by genetics, the environment or a virus.

Treatments that once seemed promising proved dis-

The history of cancer has been littered with false dawns

Barak Goodman

appointing. Some had limited success.

Immunotherapy, the use of a person's own immune system to fight cancer cells, is so new that it barely received a mention in Mukherjee's book but gets a thorough telling in the film.

The film follows the story of the very first child ever to receive a new treatment to attack cancer cells.

"The history of cancer has been littered with false dawns with, as our film discusses, moments of great optimism followed by immediately crashing disillusionment," Goodman said.

"So we did have to be very careful about those we chose to follow."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCIENCE

Another smoking-type coverup? 'Trust me, in the next 10 years'

Often, the doctors and scientists are pushed by patients themselves.

The story of radical mastectomy for breast cancer is particularly illuminating, how it went from the universally accepted treatment with naysayers ridiculed until other, less invasive approaches were proven effective.

The film The Emperor of All Maladies by Ken Burns discusses the groundbreaking surgeon general's report in the 1960s strongly linking cigarette smoking to cancer and the slow but steady reduction, at least in the United States, of probably the best-known carcinogen.

"You could say, 'Does that matter?'" Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee said.

"Trust me, in the next 10 years we will find yet another new carcinogen being somewhere that we don't know about and a company that's eager to obfuscate on its origins, and the lessons from what we learned about cigarettes will apply all over again."

Sharon Rockefeller, president and CEO of PBS' influential Washington affiliate WETA, read

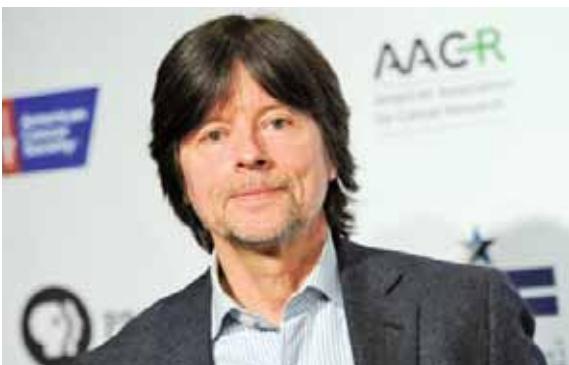
Mukherjee's book while she was being treated for colon cancer, caught just weeks before becoming incurable. With Laura Ziskin, the late co-founder of Stand Up to Cancer, they resolved to see the book turned into a film.

The documentary is one that its own makers hope becomes outdated quickly by the advance of new research. Perhaps it can have an impact on a trend that Mukherjee sees as particularly alarming: funding cuts to cancer research at a crucial moment

He's concerned that the best scientists will be drawn to more lucrative work. Still, Mukherjee was positive when asked if he was more or less optimistic about the fight against cancer than when he was writing his book.

"I'm immensely optimistic not because politics has proved that way, but because patient advocacy and science have moved that way," he said. "I'm optimistic despite the political realm."

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Executive producer Ken Burns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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CARIBBEAN

What you need to experience before the island changes

Vawn Himmelsbach
Metro | Travel

Cuba is heating up. Flights, hotel rooms and even casas particulares, the Cuban version of B&Bs, are in demand. Scores of tourists from Canada are flocking to the country after U.S. President Obama announced plans to restore diplomatic ties with Cuba.

Once the border opens up to Americans, it's expected that prices will increase as demand exceeds supply.

Cuba's political and economic future is shifting, so if you want to get a glimpse of a by-gone era before it's gone — a 1950s freeze frame where iPads and Starbucks don't exist — then now is the time to pack your bags.

Old Havana

The capital city, where most travellers flock, is already fairly touristy — though it's a photographer's dream with its 1950s classic cars and crumbling art nouveau and colonial architecture.

If you want to get a sense of how Cubans really live, wander around Centro Havana.

It's safe and easily walkable (Cuba is not known for violent crime), but the blazing heat may force you to stop for a coconut daiquiri or Cuba libre at one of Ernest Hemingway's former haunts — like El Floridita — to cool down.

Tour the coast

It's well worth venturing beyond Havana. Since you can't Google your way through this country (indeed, Gmail won't work here, even if you do find Wi-Fi), it means that hidden gems are still, in fact, hidden.

Since much of the country's environment has been protected, Cuba offers up pristine coastlines and wetlands. There's fear, however, that once borders open up and foreign developers move in, this could change. So now is the time to see a world relatively untouched by tourism — before it is.

Cuba has thousands of coral reefs that appear to be healthier than others in Caribbean waters thanks to decades of isolation from mass tourism, according to the Nature Conservancy. So you can snorkel around reefs where you'll encounter everything from stingrays to green sea turtles — maybe even a reef shark — with no other boat in sight.

The Cannaerros Archipelago

One way to do this is to sail Cuba's coastline. Canadian tour operator G Adventures,



Practise your Spanish and see some classic cars in the capital city, Havana. iSTOCK

for example, recently launched a sailing trip that allows small groups of travellers to explore the islands of the Cannaerros Archipelago, many of which

are uninhabited.

The archipelago is made up of more than 300 islands and islets, most of which are uninhabited.

Cayo Largo is the second-largest island, though it's only 26 kilometres long and three kilometres wide. Aside from stunning beaches, it's home to nesting sea turtles and flamingos.

Then there's Cayo Rico, which is only accessible by boat. There's a beach bar here, but that's it. You can hang out with the iguanas and explore secluded coves that make you feel like you're on

a deserted island (though pina coladas are never too far away).

Meet the people

While sun-seekers have been heading to the island nation on discounted all-inclusive resort packages for years, the best way to see the "real" Cuba before it changes is to get off the resort.

The locals easily live up to their reputation as some of the friendliest, most hospitable people on the planet, and it's a great way to practice your Spanish.

HISTORY

- Cuba was once the playground for America's wealthy elite, who lived it up in Havana's five-star resorts and casinos. But that all changed after the Cuban Revolution of 1953, where socialism took root under Fidel Castro and Che Guevara.

- The U.S. established a trade embargo against Cuba in 1962 to reduce "the threat posed by its alignment with the communist powers," according to Proclamation 3447.

If you do opt to sail the coast, dock overnight at the marina in Cayo Largo and join the Cubans for a late-night dance party to pulsating Latin beats under a sky full of stars. Don't know how to salsa or do the cha-cha? No matter. You won't have any problem finding someone who will be happy to show you.

While you'll enjoy fresh seafood on the coast, it's also a first-hand experience of Cuban ingenuity. Step into a Cuban supermarket and you won't find much. There are no Pringles or Snickers bars. There are few fresh vegetables. So to see your Cuban cook whip up new — and tasty — dishes each day out of limited ingredients (such as tinned veggies) really hits home how Cubans actually live under a U.S. trade embargo.

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Exhibit explores Don Draper's world

POP CULTURE

New York museum sheds light as *Mad Men* returns

You don't need to be mad about *Mad Men* to savour Matthew Weiner's *Mad Men* at New York's Museum of the Moving Image.

This collection of hundreds of props, dozens of costumes, two full-scale sets and scads of notes and scripts from AMC's glorious drama series will surely thrill all *Mad Men* fans as they brace themselves for its final seven episodes (starting April 5).

But beyond any frisson from actually entering the sacred space of ad man Don Draper's 1960s office after seeing it on-screen so many times, or from standing inches from Megan's Zou Bisou Bisou mini-dress (displayed, alas, not by Jessica Pare but on a mannequin), the exhibit is more than a TV-focused spectacle. It's a resurrected world of Americana as frozen in time a half-century ago.

Item: When was the last time you saw an S&H Green Stamps Saver Book? You may spy a couple of them among



The cast of *Mad Men*: The final episodes of the series will begin on April 5. FRANK OCKENFELS/AMC

the many props dressing the Ossining, N.Y., kitchen of Don and Betty Draper (which, like Don's office, was transplanted to this MOMI gallery from the L.A. studio where *Mad Men* was shot). Then turn your gaze past the vintage Lux liquid bottle at the sink and the ceramic knick-knacks on the panelled wall over to the breakfast

table, where a grocery list calls for such items as a can of peas, whipping cream and margarine.

To behold this intimate scene, which seems to breathe with life even absent its fictional residents, can make you feel

downright voyeuristic.

Now don't forget and light up! Among the curios at hand are a circa '60s cigarette machine, numerous ashtrays and Don's totemic lighter, Betty's cigarette case and pack of Salem. On a wall are ads from Don's agency, such as "We'll meet you anywhere. Hilton" and "Relax. Lucky Strike."

For evidence of how pains-



DON DRAPER BENCH

Selfie spot for *Mad Men* fans

Mad Men fans can now take a selfie with Don Draper, thanks to a bench unveiled Monday featuring the fictional adman's silhouette.

Jon Hamm, the actor who plays Draper, posed for photos on the bench outside the Time & Life Building at 1271 Avenue of the Americas in midtown Manhattan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

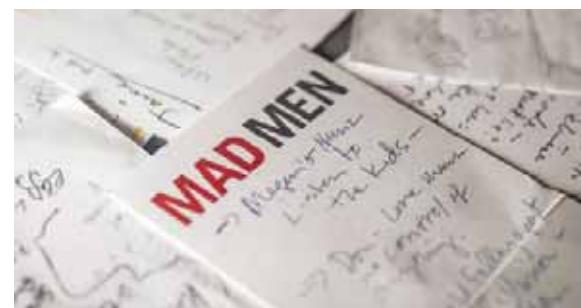
+ IF YOU GO

Visit the exhibition

The Matthew Weiner's *Mad Men* exhibit runs through June 14 at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York City. For hours, visit movingimage.us. Adults, \$12; students with ID, \$9; children 3-12, \$6. Free admission Friday 4 p.m.-8 p.m.



The set for Don Draper's office from Seasons 4-6 is displayed as part of the exhibition, *Matthew Weiner's Mad Men at the Moving Image in New York*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Notes and storylines for *Mad Men* scribbled by series creator Matthew Weiner are part of the exhibition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

takingly detailed *Mad Men* always was, note the TV Guide in the clutter on a secretary's desk: A label indistinguishable from the real thing designates the magazine's addressee as Sterling Cooper & Assocs on Manhattan's Avenue of the Americas — in type far too small for the camera to have noticed.

Matthew Weiner's *Mad Men* (a title that confers proper credit on the series' mastermind) has been a year in the works, according to exhibition curator Barbara Miller, who speaks gratefully of the collaboration with the museum by Weiner and his colleagues, even as "they gave us the freedom to do what we wanted."

What the museum wanted, she says, is more than a gallery

of gathered artifacts. A corresponding goal was to shed light on this series' creative process, reaching back before its sets and costumes were designed and the cameras rolled.

With that in mind, the exhibition has resurrected the show's writers' room where, for seven seasons, *Mad Men* narratives and scripts blossomed.

Matthew Weiner's *Mad Men* will help its visitors understand how a great TV series came about. But it's also a '60s-spanning time trip that celebrates how Don Draper and his *Mad Men* comrades inhabited their world while it honours their flesh-and-blood contemporaries who made their home in that decade for real.

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Airbnbs with star-power



Malibu, Calif. \$640 per night

This former home of **Denzel Washington**, singers **Captain and Tennille** and **Jimmy Page** sits on a bluff overlooking Broad Beach, one of the area's most famous surfing beaches. From the oversized outdoor patio, you can watch the dolphins play. If you're a partier, take note, Malibu City Hall has a strict 'no noise after 10 p.m.' ordinance, and they enforce it. The house comfortably sleeps eight. Pets welcome.

Pacific Grove, Calif. \$1,422 per week

This historic studio has a unique and rich literary history, having belonged to **John Steinbeck** in the early '40s. He wrote *The Sea of Cortez* while living here. The 350-square-foot studio has its original '20s architecture, which means short doorways and a warning for tall guests to "mind their heads." Located a kilometre from the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row.

Omaha, Neb. Free?

You can win your chance to stay in the childhood home of **Warren Buffett**, one of the world's richest men, by entering an Air BnB on-line contest. See where the trailblazing entrepreneur launched his first business selling chewing gum door-to-door at age six. The hook: You need to be a Berkshire Hathaway shareholder to enter. The rich keep getting richer for a reason!

Stone Ridge, N.Y. \$2,586 per week

Located by the Mohonk Preserve, the Rubber House was built for the famed choreographer **Eugene Loring**. It was then owned by actor **Willem Dafoe** who faithfully retained the original dance studio and industrial kitchen. Situated on seven acres, the house is nestled within a grouping of giant moss-covered prehistoric boulders. The listing suggests you'll need a car, bike or perhaps a horse to get around.

Beyond Santa Monica's famous old pier

DESTINATION

Classics and more to see in this paradise on L.A.'s edge

Planning a trip to Southern California but don't want to fight L.A. traffic? Check out the Santa Monica in all its picture-postcard beauty. From a funky old pier surrounded by some of the world's best beaches to its upscale shopping district, scores of art galleries, top-rated restaurants and bountiful nightlife, there are enough things in this little oasis just 19 kilometres west of downtown Los Angeles to keep you not only occupied but enthralled.

What's new

Santa Monica Place: Transformed in 2010, this shopping mall is a bright, open-air gathering spot of upscale restaurants and stores that connects directly with the city's pedestrian-friendly Third Street Promenade, forming the heart of Santa Monica's downtown. The mall also provides an abundance of relatively reasonable parking within walking distance of the beach. A new-old addition to that beach is the Annenberg Community Beach House. Built in the 1920s by William Randolph Hearst for his companion, actress Mar-



The Pacific Park located on the Santa Monica Pier. RICHARD VOGEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

ion Davies, it was acquired by Santa Monica and opened to the public in 2009. Tours of the guest house and its art gallery are free.

Classic attractions

Start by making a beeline to Santa Monica Pier, the 99-year-old landmark with an entrance sign proclaiming it as the final stop on Route 66, the historic highway John Steinbeck declared America's Mother Road. Here you'll find everything from musicians, snake hand-

lers, artists and other street performers, to quiet areas set aside for fishing. In the middle of it all is an amusement park with a solar-powered Ferris wheel that carries riders 40 metres up. The wheel provides arguably the best panoramic views of the area. Near the pier's entrance is the Hippodrome, built in 1916 and home to a vintage carousel with hand-carved horses, only \$2 to ride (\$1 for kids).

As for the beach, it's a five-kilometre stretch, plenty to go around for surfers, swim-

mers, sunbathers and the like. You can check it all out by biking, roller skating or walking the boardwalk (actually made of concrete) that parallels the sand.

If there isn't a concert you want to see at McCabe's Guitar Shop (Christine Lavin and Holly Near will be there later this month), the nighttime destination is the Third Street Promenade. It rejuvenated Santa Monica's aging, moribund downtown when it was closed to cars in the late 1980s



The beach in Santa Monica. JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

and remains the city's signature downtown area with upscale shops, restaurants, bars, boutiques, yoga studios, art galleries and the like.

Hanging out

On the way into town check out Bergamot Station Art Center. A collection of modest buildings near a maintenance yard in the section of town farthest from the beach, it's easy to overlook. But inside this 19th-century rail yard you'll find a small art museum and more than a dozen contemporary galleries displaying photos, sculptures, paintings and more. There's also a good, reasonably priced restaurant with an outside dining area. Or ask for directions to Food Truck Alley, a nearby street on the edge of the city's

IF YOU GO

Getting around

- Basic one-way fares on the city's Big Blue Bus system are \$1, with multiple-ride passes available at discounted prices. Visit bigbluebus.com for details.
- Several hotels provide shuttle service to the pier, and bicycle rentals are available. If you drive, be warned street parking is difficult to find in most tourist areas.

high-tech district where a dozen or more food trucks congregate every weekday lunch hour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Come for surf, stay for supper

TOFINO

B.C.'s beach town has been cultivating its culinary scene

One of the more memorable meals chef Tim May says he prepared in Tofino on British Columbia's remote West Coast was a wedding feast for a young couple who just eloped.

The newlyweds from Toronto exchanged vows on the beach, ran back to their honeymoon nest and watched as May, described locally as a culinary rock star, cooked their romantic dinner.

"It was kind of bizarre in a way because there's this couple and this is their wedding dinner," said May. "They just got married on the beach with the justice of the peace and then they come back to their little vacation home and here I am standing behind the bar cooking them dinner."

May is one of the many highly trained and visionary chefs who have migrated to the Vancouver Island coastal community known more for surfing and whale watching to contribute to a growing culinary scene that is adding more flavour to Tofino.



Tofino's residents are always searching for good food to fuel their bodies, according to chef Lisa Ahier who owns Tofino's SoBo. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Located 315 kilometres west of Victoria, Tofino, population 2,000, and neighbouring Ucluelet, population 1,600, are massive tourism destinations, with their rugged coastal beauty and endless beaches. The area explodes with visitors in the summer months, with estimates of 22,000 people in the area on some days in July and August.

The growing list of award-winning restaurants is a product of the many retreats that offer visitors first-class treatment within the velvet embrace of coastal rainforests and roaring waves. But ask May and others who came to Tofino for the chance to kick back on the beach year-round, it is the locals who drive the scene, wanting it

fresh, local and the best.

"Think of Vancouver Island as Europe," said May, who runs the RedCan Gourmet, an open-concept commercial kitchen where customers can interact with the chefs as they create West Coast dishes. "It's a New World Europe in a sense of the different kinds of micro climates and the farms that can grow certain things in



Tim May's fresh ground sirloin burger. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IF YOU GO

Hungry?

If you find yourself hungry in Tofino, check out: Red-Can Gourmet and SoBo, Fresh Food From Here and There.

truck and now wins awards at her bricks-and-mortar location.

"The people who live here is why I do what I do," she said. "I set up my business 13 years ago for locals and the locals demand quality, the best fuel for their bodies. You can't fool our local clientele. They want good food that makes them feel great."

She's seen people who started in her restaurant as dishwashers and food preparation staff fall in love with the industry and open their own restaurants.

"Visitors can expect probably the freshest seafood they'll ever see," said Ahier, who recently published "The SoBo Cookbook."

"We have local people who harvest our gooseneck barnacles. Our oysters just came in 30 minutes ago. There's not a lot of transportation in our food. It's coming directly from the water to here."

May said local chefs pride themselves on working together even though they depend on the same customer base. The Tofino-Ucluelet Culinary Guild, which helps source the freshest and most in-season items for the restaurants, binds the locals, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

specific areas. That's what Vancouver Island is."

Chef Lisa Ahier, who owns Tofino's SoBo, billed as sophisticated bohemian, agreed it's the locals who created and support the community's top-notch foodie scene.

"I have never seen a town with this few residents that has such a high level, consistently, of cuisine," said Ahier, who started in Tofino in 2003 with a food

TRAVEL NOTES FROM AN AFRICAN SAFARI DEAL TO A NICARAGUAN ADVENTURE



African Safari sale

Intrepid Travel is offering 30 per cent off African safari adventures departing before June 30 if you book your trip by April 30. And it's not just two or three; there are more than 20 trips on sale, from seven days to 60: Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti, Victoria Falls and Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Nakuru and the Okavango Delta. Visit IntrepidTravel.com.

Nicaragua

"The Land of Lakes and Volcanoes" is gaining ground on Costa Rica and Panama as the new place to explore, and not just with the younger set looking for a cheap place to surf. Travellers wanting something different than the usual sun-



NICARAGUA TOURISM

spots will revel in the authenticity of Nicaragua. And since the turbulence of the 1970s and '80s, Nicaragua is now one of the safest countries in the region. May to October is the best time to go. Check out VisitNicaragua.us.

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QMJHL

Mooseheads kick off playoffs Friday in Shawinigan

Kristen Lipscombe
Metro Halifax

For the first time since the start of the season, the Halifax Mooseheads have a healthy roster — just in time for their first-round QMJHL playoff series against the Shawinigan Cataractes.

“It’s pretty much the first time all year that we’ve had everyone healthy like this,” head coach Dominique Ducharme said Thursday, after leading afternoon practice in Shawinigan. “So that’s a positive.”

Ducharme said his Halifax squad respects its competition, but despite the fact that Shawinigan finished in fifth place overall, compared to Halifax’s 12th-place finish, “we’re confident.”

The two teams split the regular-season series, with the Moose snagging a 6-3 win Nov. 27 on the road and the Cats claiming a 6-5 victory Feb. 13 at the Scotiabank Centre.

Halifax captain Ryan Falken-



Ryan Falkenham and his fellow Mooseheads are ready for the puck to drop on their first-round QMJHL playoff series against the Shawinigan Cataractes this weekend. JEFF HARPER/METRO

ham said veterans and rookies alike are ready for the puck to drop on their first two games of the best-of-seven series this weekend.

Game 1 is at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, while Game 2 starts at 5 p.m. on Saturday, both at the Gervais Auto Centre.

“We’re all excited,” Falkenham said Thursday. “For a lot of guys, it’s their first time in junior playoffs. They’re ready to go ... and I think they’ll adjust pretty quick.”

Falkenham and defenceman Austyn Hardie are the only two players remaining from when Halifax won the 2013 Memorial Cup, but 12 current players made it all the way to Game 7 of the third round with the Moose last season. There are 11 first-year players.

Shawinigan has only one player — forward Dylan Labbe — left from its 2012 Memorial Cup win. The Cats were knocked out of the playoffs in the first round last season.

“We’ve been going over what we need to do, and their tendencies,” Falkenham said.

Games 3 and 4 come back to Moose country next week, but are being moved to the Halifax Forum due to the men’s world curling championship.

Falkenham said it’s all about taking it “one game at a time.”

“You can’t look ahead in playoffs,” he said. “We just have to get Game 1 over with, and then work on the next game.”

CURLING

Scotiabank Centre welcomes the world

The Mooseheads and Rainmen may be temporarily booted from their usual home, but there’s still reason to stop by the rink.

The world men’s curling championship kicks off Saturday at the Scotiabank Centre.

Games 3, 4 and 5 of the Herd’s first-round playoff series against the Shawinigan Cataractes are being moved to the Halifax Forum next Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, respectively.

The Rainmen have yet to announce when and where their fifth game against the Island Storm will be in their second-round series, which is also being bounced out of their home venue during the worlds. The Rainmen need one more win in their best-of-seven series to advance to the NBL Canada finals.

Meanwhile, opening cere-

monies for the world curling championship kick off at noon Saturday, followed by two afternoon draws to start competition between the top 12 teams from around the world.

The round robin continues Sunday through Thursday with three draws daily, while playoffs start next Friday, featuring the top four teams. Semifinals are set for next Saturday, while the bronze and gold medals are on the line next Sunday.

The countries competing for global bragging rights are Canada, the Czech Republic, China, Finland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

All of Canada’s games will be broadcast live on TSN/RDS2. This is the fourth time Atlantic Canada has hosted.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

IN BRIEF

Saulnier to make Nova Scotia history at worlds

Halifax native Jillian Saulnier is about to make hockey history.

The 23-year-old forward and Cornell University student will become the first female from Nova Scotia to play for Team Canada at a world championship when the puck drops Saturday in Malmö, Sweden.

Canada faces the United States in preliminary action Saturday at noon Atlantic Time.

METRO

Cave squaring off in MTL

Tyson Cave will be back in the ring Friday night.

The 33-year-old Halifax boxer squares off against Abraham Gomez of Mexico at Olympia Theatre in Montreal.

It will be Cave’s first fight since his controversial split decision loss to Colombia’s Oscar Escandon in California last December for the super bantamweight title.

Cave is currently 24-3 while Gomez is 19-9 on the World Boxing Association circuit. METRO

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Simmons team's world title wish

CURLING

Morris, Rycroft and Thiessen want success for their skip

John Morris, Carter Rycroft and Nolan Thiessen are all former world men's curling champions.

They're hoping to get their skip his first world title at this year's tournament in Halifax.

Pat Simmons will guide the host Canadian side at the competition, which begins Saturday at the Scotiabank Centre. He took over skipping duties from Morris after the team struggled in the early going at the recent Tim Hortons Brier.

Simmons went on to lead the Calgary rink to the playoffs and a successful title defence as the first Team Canada entry at the national championship. A 6-5 victory over Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs gave them a berth in the 12-team world championship along with a chance to make up for a disappointing fourth-place finish last year in Beijing.

"That's one of our big motivators going into Halifax," said Morris. "We want to get that world championship for Pat."

Simmons, Rycroft and Thiessen won the Brier last

year with Alberta skip Kevin Koe. However, reports surfaced shortly before the 2014 world championship that Koe planned to move forward with a new lineup for this season.

They still made it to the bronze-medal game but settled for fourth place after a loss to Switzerland. It was the first time since 2001 that Canada had missed the podium at the world playdowns.

Koe's former teammates later recruited Morris as skip and had an automatic entry at the Brier as the defending champions. Team Canada played a light schedule ahead of the national playdowns and stumbled to a 2-3 record after five games.

That's when Morris demoted himself to third and handed skipping duties to Simmons, who shone in the role. They made the final four, pulled off two close playoff wins and knocked off the reigning Olympic champions in a nail-biting final. Not bad for someone who hadn't been a full-time skip in five years.

"As it turned out, it came back relatively quick," Simmons said in a recent interview. "There's still probably room for improvement in that respect, but I definitely was pleased with how quickly everything did come back for sure."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

That's one of our big motivators going into Halifax. We want to get that world championship for Pat.

John Morris



Team Canada skip Pat Simmons is hoisted up by third John Morris while celebrating winning the Brier final THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ottawa Senators centre Kyle Turris under Rangers' pressure THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Senators sunk by 5-star Rangers

Ottawa netminder Andrew Hammond suffered his first regulation-time loss on Thursday as the Senators fell to the New York Rangers 5-1.

Hammond allowed five goals on 22 shots and is now 14-1-1 to start his NHL career.

Chris Kreider had two goals and an assist as New York also put an end to Ottawa's seven-game winning streak.

Dan Boyle, Mats Zuccarello

and Tanner Glass also scored for the Rangers (47-19-7), who now have 101 points and have clinched a playoff berth, while Cam Talbot made 23 saves.

Curtis Lazar had the lone goal for the Senators (37-25-11) as they failed to collect at least one point for just the second time in their past 18 games.

New York's fifth goal knocked Hammond out of

the game at 16:02 of the second period.

He was replaced by Chris Driedger, who was making his NHL debut. Driedger finished with 10 saves. The Rangers took a 3-1 lead into the second period on two goals from Kreider and one from Boyle.

Kreider opened the scoring at 12:38 after a fantastic pass from Derek Stepan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Duhamel, Radford win gold at worlds

FIGURE SKATING

Canadian pair undefeated since 7th-place finish in Sochi

Canadians Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford have their perfect season.

Duhamel and Radford held off two Chinese teams in the free skate to capture gold in the pairs event on Thursday at the world figure skating championships.

After a seventh-place finish at the Sochi Games last year, Duhamel, from Lively, Ont., and Radford, from Balmertown, Ont., decided to continue their careers and skate another year — and haven't lost since.

They've won all six international events they've entered this season, including the Grand Prix Finals and Four

Continents.

"Some dreams are so big that you can't even imagine them happening and it's all happening right now," said Radford.

"I could never have imagined it and I can't tell if it's a dream or reality."

Duhamel and Radford, who won bronze at the previous two world championships, were the leaders after the short program. It is Canada's first pairs title since Jamie Sale and David Pelletier won in 2001.

"This is a very personal victory. Every single victory along the way this season had a very special

meaning," Duhamel said.

Sui Wenjing and Han Cong of China finished second, and 35-year-old veterans Pang Qing and Tong Jian, competing in



We've worked so hard to get here and it's amazing.

Eric Radford

their 16th world championships, took home the bronze.

Pang and Tong, who came out of retirement this year to finish their careers in Shanghai, now have six world medals (two gold, one silver, three bronze) to go with their silver medal from the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

"I fulfilled (my partner's) wishes to come back to the rink," Tong said,

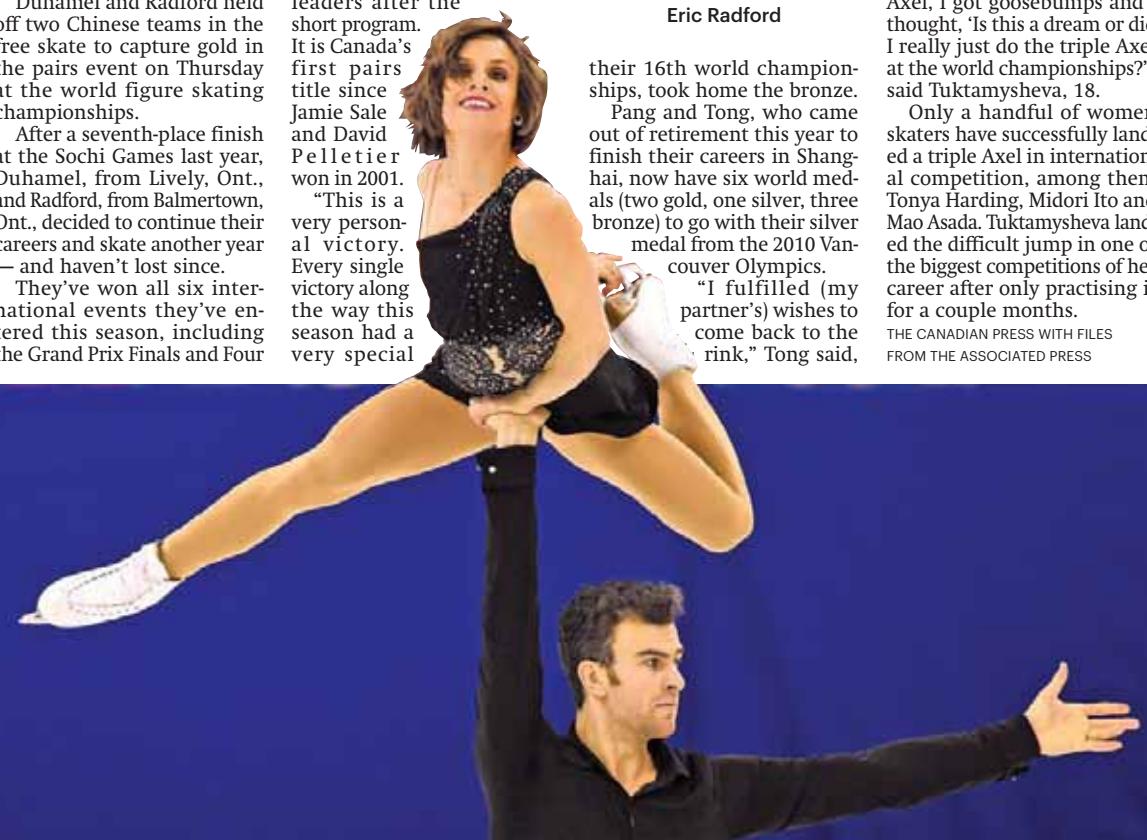
before adding with a smile, "I certainly hope Pang Qing will not drag me back to the rink once again."

Also, Russian Elizaveta Tuktamysheva landed a triple Axel on her first leap of the figure skating world championships on Thursday, opening up a big lead over the rest of the field after the short program.

"When I landed the triple Axel, I got goosebumps and I thought, 'Is this a dream or did I really just do the triple Axel at the world championships?'" said Tuktamysheva, 18.

Only a handful of women skaters have successfully landed a triple Axel in international competition, among them Tonya Harding, Midori Ito and Mao Asada. Tuktamysheva landed the difficult jump in one of the biggest competitions of her career after only practising it for a couple months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford of Canada skate their way to the gold medal during the pairs free skate at the world figure skating championships in Shanghai on Thursday. JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Dalton Pompey of the Blue Jays dives safely into third base past the Phillies' Andre Blanco in Dunedin, Fla., Thursday.

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB SPRING TRAINING

Jays break out bats after Hamels pulled

Cole Hamels allowed two hits in five scoreless innings during the Philadelphia Phillies' 4-1 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays on Thursday.

A focus of trade speculation, Hamels didn't allow a hit until Kevin Pillar reached on an infield single leading off the fifth. Hamels picked off Pillar, Dalton Pompey tripled to left-centre field and Hamels struck out Jose Reyes.

Hamels, a four-time all-star, struck out four and walked three.

Steve Tolleson hit a grand slam off Ken Giles in the eighth.

DEMOTED

Toronto optioned reliever Steve Delabar to Triple-A Buffalo.

"I'm not happy with the move, neither should I be, because I've had a pretty good spring so far," Delabar said.

Blue Jays starter Aaron Sanchez gave up one run, two hits and one walk in 5 1/3 innings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Chelsea signs captain Terry to contract extension

Captain John Terry will be at Chelsea for at least one more season after earning a contract extension in recognition of his enduring value to the team.

The 34-year-old Terry remains one of Chelsea's most consistent and influential players, helping Jose Mourinho's team establish a six-point lead at the top of the English Premier League. Terry has made 661 appearances since 1998.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger chips in \$10K for university scholarship

Tiger Woods has donated \$10,000 to launch a scholarship fund honouring Charlie Sifford, who broke the colour barrier in golf as the first black PGA Tour member.

The University of Maryland-Eastern Shore announced the gift from Woods on Thursday.

Sifford, who died last month at age 92, won twice on the PGA Tour and was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2004.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We need to talk.

RICK HOWE 9am-1pm

SHELDON MacLEOD 2pm-6pm

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Bake time: 11 minutes

Directions

- Dust chicken with 3 tbsp of flour. In large skillet sprayed with vegetable oil, sauté chicken for 3 minutes or just until no longer pink. Set aside.
- In the same skillet, add oil and sauté onions, curry paste, ginger and garlic for 3 minutes, then add red bell pepper and sauté for 2 minutes. Set aside.
- In a bowl, combine coconut milk, 2 tbsp flour, fish sauce and sugar and mix until flour has dissolved. Add to onion mixture along with chicken, and on a medium heat, cook just until sauce has slightly thickened, about 3 minutes.
- Serve over cooked rice or noodles (if using) and garnish with chopped cashews and cilantro.

Ingredients

- 12 oz boneless, skinless chicken breast, sliced into 1/2-inch wide slices

- 5 tbsp all-purpose flour, divided
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups sliced onions
- 2 tbsp red curry paste or to taste
- 1 tbsp minced ginger
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- 2 cups sliced red bell peppers
- 1 1/2 cups canned light coconut milk
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- Garnish
- 1/4 cup toasted chopped cashews
- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro
- 3 cups cooked rice or rice noodles (optional)

Nutrition per serving

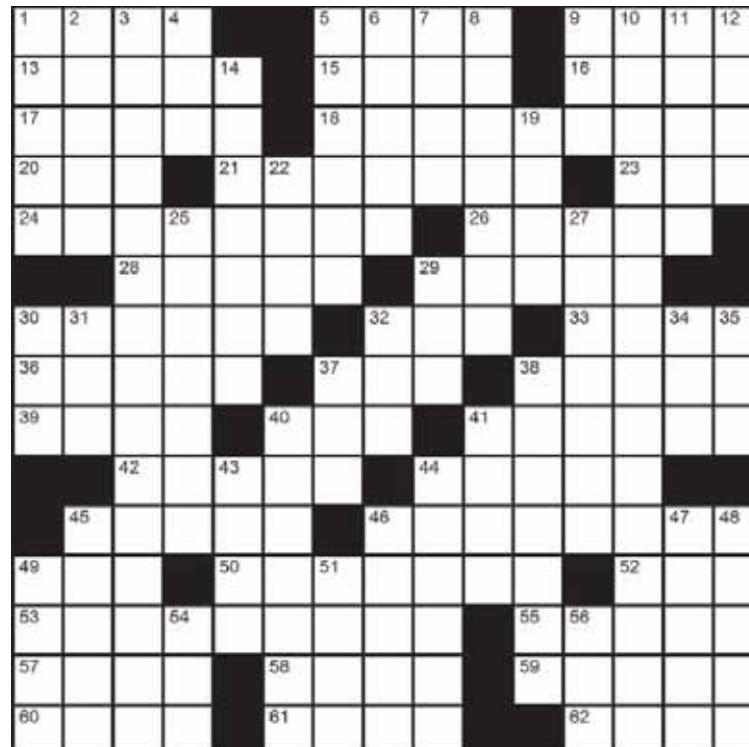
- Calories 352
- Protein 38.4 g
- Carbohydrates 18.8 g g
- Fibre 3.1 g
- Total fat 13 g
- Saturated fat 4.9 g
- Cholesterol 250 mg
- Sodium 450 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

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BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

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**ACROSS**

- Canada's historic exports
- British group, with Manfred
- Island: Spanish
- Clark's legendary 1939 movie role
- Mr. Blacc of song
- Irving and Grant
- Place to connect in Chicago
- Circus performer's prop: 2 wds.
- South, in Portugal
- Suspiciously
- Tree of Hawaii
- Michel ___, Montreal Canadiens head coach
- Movie mermaid
- Chimney-like
- Stew
- "Dis-Moi, Dis-Moi" chanteuse
- It gets pumped
- Music key, ___
- Purport
- Wickedness
- Celebrity chef Guy
- Apportion
- Wear
- Magician
- TV actor Rob
- Actress Ms. Brewster
- He's a helluva guy
- Hamilton's AHL team
- Travel-
- ler's delay
- Canadian singer Ms. Reno
- Horizon-tal rest
- Those supervising
- Big carrier of blood
- "Game of Thrones" actress Ms. Headey
- Kind of mackerel
- Deep __ (Restaurant appliance)
- Bohemian
- Zest
- Sleep Country Canada products

DOWN

- Decorate the cake
- "Yup."
- Royal LePage worker: 3 wds.
- Water channel, e.g.
- Detective Vic __ (Michael Chiklis' role on "The Shield")
- Robin Hood" (2010) minstrel, __ A'Dayle
- Midday
- "The Price Is Right" prizes: 2 wds.
- Mr. Somerhalder
- Classic order at Montreal's since-1927 famous eatery

*** IT'S ALL IN THE STARS** by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
If something feels good then just do it. As long as it is moral, it does not matter what others might think about it. You have never been one to let criticism stop you.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Forget about financial matters and focus on your family. Get things in perspective today and remind yourself that, in the greater scheme of things, money is only bits of paper.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Make sure you are on the move because the more people you meet, the more opportunities will come your way in the near future. There is also a chance you could meet someone new to love.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Don't let those who say you are behaving in an illogical manner persuade you to change your ways. What you are doing may look silly to them but from your point of view it makes sense.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Don't take on extra tasks over the next 24 hours. With the commitments you already have you are likely to be on the go from first thing in the morning to last thing at night.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you admit you need help today you will be overwhelmed by offers of assistance. But don't take the easy way out and let friends and colleagues do everything for you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A new relationship will start today or over the weekend. It may or may not be romantic in nature but whatever guise it takes it will be fun. This is also a good time to interact with large groups of people.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will go out of your way to be nice to people today — even with those who have not always been nice to you in the past.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your generosity knows no bounds: you want to do everything for everyone. Common sense should tell you that isn't actually possible but you will do your best to make a positive difference in the next 24 hours.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The intensity of your emotions could catch you by surprise today, so stay in control and don't overreact. If you do go too far you may be a bit embarrassed later when you realize what was said and done.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a good day to patch up disputes with loved ones. You will find it easier than usual to admit that you were to blame for what went wrong.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will find it difficult to make up your mind about something but that's OK. The planets indicate it will pay to put off a decision about a money matter until early next week.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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Dunn's: 4 wds.
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Between ports
Rita's __ (Cape Breton's 'steeped-in-tradition establishment opened by Rita MacNeil in the 1980s)
Emperor of Rome
In __ (As originally placed)
Most pink
Sort of salt
Prohibit
Ancient 1900
Tact' suffix
Saloon supply
Flawed in a way [abbr.]
Nest: French
Maritime message
Ancient statue's modesty preserver: 2 wds.
"Let's Hear It for the Boy": 1984 hit for __ Williams
Mr. Disney
Labels
Feigns: 2 wds.



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